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ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL POSTPONES SESSION TO 27 FEB

LD271630 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] We have learned that the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council has been postponed to tomorrow morning, Wednesday, 27 February 1980.

Libyan Official Meets Delegates

LD271135 Tripoli JANA in English 0942 GMT 27 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, February, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki has stepped up his activities and contacts with the heads of delegations participating in the meeting called by the Jamahiriyah so as to prepare an extraordinary session of the council of Arab countries' foreign ministers in order to investigate the French colonialist invasion of Tunisia.

Last night the foreign secretary met the Algerian information and culture minister and the foreign ministers of Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, the U.A.E., and of North and South Yemen.

During these meetings Dr. at-Turayki, and the Arab ministers coordinated their respective positions regarding the French invasion of Tunisia and its danger for the freedom and independence of the Tunisian people and of the Arab region. They also examined the establishment of relations between the defeated As-Sadat regime and the Zionist enemy as well as the American military presence represented by military bases granted to the United States by the Egyptian regime to undermine the progressive forces in the Arab world and Africa.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DIPLOMATS ON MILITARY FACILITIES FOR U.S.

BK261601 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Feb (AFP)--Diplomats belonging to the Islamic Conference here today denied reports that some of their member states had agreed to provide military base facilities to the U.S. in their territories.

At a press conference jointly addressed by them, Pakistani Ambassador Abdul Sattar said, answering a question, that the fact that such reports had not been denied did not mean they were correct.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Shaykh Salih Abdallah Saqayr recalled in this context a statement made by King Khalil saying that there would be no military bases and we would defend ourselves.

Mr. Sattar, who is also chairman of a seven-member panel of the Islamic diplomats, welcomed the principled stand taken by India on the Palestinian issue and sought its further help to devise more effective means to make Israel vacate the occupied Arab territories. M. Sattar said their [words indistinct] continue its contacts with the Government of India, confident in the belief that India will support the genuine demand of the Palestinian people.

Faysal Awaydah, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), thanked India for its support to the cause of Palestinians. He further defended the Arab League decision to expel Egypt for the latter's conclusion of a peace agreement with Israel. He questioned President as-Sadat's right to negotiate with Israel and give away Arab territory to Israel without the concurrence of other Arab states.

MEETING OF OPEC STRATEGY COMMITTEE IN LONDON REPORTED

LD221858 Riyadh SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) in Arabic 1617 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Source formerly identified as "SNA"]

[Text] London--The strategy committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), under the chairmanship of Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and chairman of the committee, today concluded its meeting in London. The committee has drawn up a number of recommendations concerning the policy of prices and production to be submitted to the extraordinary meeting of OPEC petroleum ministers, the date and the venue for which is to be fixed later.

The committee recommends that the OPEC countries should maintain production levels with slight adjustments during the next few years and that oil prices should be reviewed regularly every 3 months. The committee also recommends that the OPEC countries should extend various forms of assistance to developing countries to enable them to face increased oil prices.

The committee recommends that OPEC should seek a dialog between the North and South and with countries of the industrial world in order to reach an all-embracing solution regarding oil supplies and stability of prices in return for greater effort to export technology to the developing countries, together with maintaining currency stability and further direct investments in the search for new sources of oil or other sources of energy.

The OPEC strategy committee delegated Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah to tour the OPEC member-states to discuss convening an extraordinary meeting of petroleum ministers of the member countries of the organization. Al-'Utaybah announced yesterday his country's readiness to hold such a meeting and to provide suitable conditions for its success, with the purpose of returning to the policy of unified prices.

'ARAFAT COMMENTS ON BRITISH, EUROPEAN INITIATIVES

NC270802 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Yesterday brother Abu 'Ammar described the talk about a British or European initiative as a boast; its ugly face was completely exposed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who has given Israel the green light to launch an attack on the Palestinian revolution. The brother commander in chief said this in a speech at the graduation ceremony of the Martyr Najwah as-Sa'id administration course. Some 33 representatives of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society participated in the course, which was held under the auspices of the Palestinian Institute of Administrative Development in collaboration with the Arab Center for Administrative Development.

The commander in chief affirmed that what Carter has said, coupled with his pledge to protect Israeli security, has given Israel the green light to launch a military operation.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the gist of what Carter has said exposes the falseness of their words about British and European initiatives, which in themselves are a cover for Israeli aggression. He added: They must understand that we are not afraid of their threats. It is we in this area who can threaten and one of the things we have been able to achieve in this revolution is to raise the barrier of fear from our hearts.

He added: The Palestinian revolution, with its fighters from all parts of the Arab homeland and the entire world, has surmounted the barrier of fear which had always alarmed the area and for the first time we have been able to move this barrier of fear to the opposite side.

The commander in chief emphasized the importance of the determination and resolve to resist, saying: Weapons alone do not fight; what fights is resolve, because weapons alone have never fought--not even once. Despite the importance of weapons, it is resolve that fights.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES SOVIET-PALESTINIAN FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION

NC260848 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to Arab World
0530 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Last night, brother Commander Abu 'Ammar received the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Society delegation headed by Comrade Yuriy Barabash, the chairman of the Soviet Committee of Friendship and Solidarity with the Arab Peoples of Palestine and first deputy minister of culture in the Soviet Union.

During the meeting viewpoints on the international situation were exchanged and the friendly ties linking the Palestinian and Soviet people were discussed.

FORMER PLO CHIEF ASH-SHUQAYRI DIES IN AMMAN 26 FEB

JN261524 Baghdad INA in English 1518 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Amman, INA--The first leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Ahmad ash-Shuqayri, died today in an Amman hospital at the age of 78.

Ash-Shuqayri, a lawyer by profession, was one of the leading Palestinian freedom fighters who actively contributed to the setting up of the PLO which he led from 1964 to 1969.

Before that the late Ash-Shuqayri served for many years in the Arab diplomatic corps and held the post of Syrian permanent delegate at the United Nations and later represented Saudi Arabia at the same organization.

After the election of Mr Yasir 'Arafat as chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, the late Ash-Shuqayri worked as an adviser at the Arab League Secretariat.

Before his death the late Ash-Shuqayri was reported to have asked to be buried in Acre city in the north part of occupied Palestine.

BAHRAIN

DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAQ

NC270658 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Manama, 27 February--The Bahraini heir apparent and defense minister, His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, left Manama for Baghdad this morning for a 2-day official visit to the Iraqi Republic.

Before his departure, his highness told the GULF NEWS AGENCY that his visit to Iraq is in response to an invitation he received from Iraqi Revolution Command Council member, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Staff Air General 'Adnan Khayrallah. He pointed out that his discussions with his Iraqi counterpart will deal with bilateral relations and issues of concern to the Gulf area in particular and Arab issues in general.

KUWAIT

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER AN-NISF RESIGNS FOR HEALTH REASONS

LD242248 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 24 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 24 February--It was officially announced here today that Minister of Public Works Mahmud Yusuf an-Nisf has resigned for health reasons. Announcing this, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said that the resignation has been accepted and a decree will be issued in this respect next Tuesday.

Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah told the cabinet today that An-Nisf informed him of his desire to resign "in view of his health, which does not permit him to work satisfactorily."

FATAH'S ABU IYAD ARRIVES FOR TALKS 25 FEB

LD261043 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the largest Palestinian fedayeen movement, Fatah, arrived here last night. He is expected to hold talks with officials on the latest development in the Palestinian situation and the situation in southern Lebanon.

OMAN

JAPANESE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY SONODA PAYS VISIT

Discusses Omani Oil Export

OW260105 Tokyo KYODO in English 0058 GMT 26 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Muscat, Feb 25 KYODO--Oman revealed Monday that its oil output has been raised to 350,000 barrels daily from this year, compared with last year's 290,000 barrels, and that production will be maintained at the present level for the next few years. Oman explained its oil production situation at a meeting of working level officials of the Middle East country and Japan held Monday evening to exchange views on political and economic problems.

Former Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda is now visiting Oman in the course of his tour of Middle East and Southwest Asian nations as the special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

Some 60 per cent of the oil exported by Oman goes to Japan. Through the increase in oil production, the Japanese side is hoping that Japan will be assured of a stable supply from that country.

On the Middle East peace problem, Oman officials said their country considers the agreement reached at Camp David between Israel and Egypt as the first step toward realizing peace in the Middle East on a comprehensive basis. They thus revealed a stand different from other Arab nations, which are taking a critical view of the Camp David agreement.

The Japanese officials promised to extend cooperation to Oman in respect to joint ventures, technological cooperation and development of mineral resources.

Meeting With Sultan

OW260253 Tokyo KYODO in English 0229 GMT 26 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Muscat, Feb 25 KYODO--Former Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, the special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, head of state of Oman, agreed Monday to further promote cooperative relations between Japan and Oman in the future. Sonoda, who is visiting Oman on his current tour of eight Middle East and Southwest Asian nations, was received in audience by the sultan at his residence some 200 kilometers northwest of here. During the 75-minute meeting, Sonoda offered Japanese cooperation to Oman in the country's social development, personnel training and development of mineral resources other than oil. As a concrete project, he proposed cooperation for development of copper mines. Qabus welcomed the proposal.

The former foreign minister told the sultan at the outset of the meeting that the very existence of Japan rests on the security of the Strait of Hormuz, located off Oman. He said Japan, as a friend, wanted to cooperate with Oman in sectors other than military.

The sultan replied that his country welcomed Japanese assistance aimed at strengthening the stability of Oman through pure economic cooperation. He also told Sonoda that Oman has chromium and manganese resources besides copper and hinted that he wanted to widen cooperative relations with Japan in development of other mineral resources in the future. The sultan requested Japan's help for development of agriculture in the country through utilization of underground water. Sonoda pledged to cooperate on the matter. The two thus reached agreement on promoting wide-ranging bilateral cooperative relations in the future.

On the security of the Gulf states, the sultan said the primary reason for trouble in the region is the expansionist policy of the Soviet Union. He pointed out that the Soviet Union was expanding its influence in Africa, Southeast Asia and Afghanistan and is extending its hands to the most important area.

The sultan said Oman was faced with a serious danger even before the Afghanistan incident, adding that the fact that the Soviet Union has troops in South Yemen poses a big threat to his country.

The sultan said Oman alone cannot cope with such a threat and, therefore, it has to seek the cooperation of Japan, the United States, Britain and other countries whose interests agree.

Sonoda told the sultan that the cooperation of Japan, the U.S. and European nations was necessary for the security of the Middle East. He said he hoped Japan and Oman will cooperate so that the good intentions of the U.S. will be understood, noting that the U.S. is being misunderstood as taking a superpower policy and interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

At the conclusion of the talks, Sonoda invited Qabus to visit Japan. The sultan accepted and said he will make the trip at a convenient time.

Meeting With Sultan's Adviser

OW261347 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 26 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Muscat, Feb 26 KYODO--Sayyid Tuwayni ibn Shihab, personal adviser to the sultan of Oman, Tuesday expressed hope for Japan's political role in the security of the Strait of Hormuz, located off Oman. He expressed the hope when he met with visiting Japanese former Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda, the special envoy of Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

Sonoda also met with Oman's commerce and industry minister, Muhammad al-Zubayr, and a vice prime minister in separate meetings the same day. Sonoda agreed to carry out Japan's cooperation that he pledged in his meeting Monday with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

Leaves for Damascus

NC270925 Muscat ONA in Arabic 0855 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] Muscat, 27 February--Sunao Sonoda, the special envoy of the Japanese prime minister, left Muscat for Damascus today after an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman during which he met with Sultan Qabus and gave him a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira.

PDRY

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY MANNING SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES

NC231343 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 23 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 February--A report received by the South Yemen United National Front says that Soviet military authorities in South Yemen have established surface-to-surface missiles near South Yemen's borders and that the Soviet military experts are presently manning and maintaining these missiles.

According to information received by the front, the missiles have a range of about 300 kms.

The report indicates that South Yemen has sent 48 youths to the Soviet Union for training in surface-to-surface missiles.

QATAR

AR-RAYAH ON CARTER REJECTION OF PALESTINIAN STATE

NC260913 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 26 February--The Qatari paper AR-RAYAH today comments on statements by U.S. President Carter rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state and the holding of negotiations with the PLO. The paper stresses that these statements are fresh proof that Zionist pressure is still playing a big role in the U.S. presidential elections.

The paper emphasizes that these statements reflect the obvious fact that the United States is carrying out a firm basic role against the Palestinians and in the service of Israel and that the Zionist pressure in the United States can always turn Israel's aims into U.S. policy aims.

In this regard, AR-RAYAH points out that the United States recognized Israel within a minute of its inception in 1948 and that the United States was thus the first to raise its voice recognizing the Zionist entity. The paper also points out that because of its strength and wide influence in world policy, the United States continues its role, which has not changed, in extending material and moral support to Israel.

AR-RAYAH says that the great mistake of Arab politics is that the Arabs look upon the U.S. support for Israel as something usual or as a routine which does not change or stir in them the feeling of political or psychological shock, despite the fact that the Arabs have become a political and economic force which has weight in the world, a wide influence and an internationally heard voice.

The paper draws the attention of the Arab states to the fact that they definitely have the strength to influence the entire world, and the United States in particular, to carry out a sound balance between Arab influence and Zionist influence. It calls on the Arabs to refuse to consider the U.S. stand as final and unchangeable and to realize that today's Arabs are not the Arabs of 1948.

SAUDI ARABIA

IMAM OF MECCA CONDEMNS SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN

LD251410 Riyadh SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Source formerly identified as "SNA"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi--His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad ibn as-Sabil, imam of the Holy Mosque of Mecca, has condemned Soviet communist intervention in Afghanistan. He called on all justice-loving people to condemn this invasion. In an address to Muslims on the occasion of his present visit to India, his eminence stated that it is the duty of Muslims to oppose this blatant Soviet intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He added that the Soviet Union should leave the Afghan people to decide their own future.

Shaykh as-Sabil urged the Muslims in India to understand their responsibilities in practising their Islamic teachings and to be a good example for others. His eminence stressed that the salvation of troubled humanity lies in following the teachings of Islam and said Islam is a treasure for the whole of humanity.

GOVERNMENT TO SEND AID TO IRANIAN FLOOD VICTIMS

LD221202 Riyadh SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA) in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The kingdom today decided to give unrestricted aid to the victims of the recent floods which swept the province of Khuzestan in the Iranian Islamic Republic. The generous royal order to this effect has been issued and aircraft of the Saudi Air Force will ferry this aid to this area.

UAE

EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN EGYPT, ISRAEL DENOUNCED

NC261320 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 February--The UAE has strongly denounced the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel in disregard of the will of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and determine their own future.

In a statement issued by the federal National Council after a session under the chairmanship of the council's first vice president, the UAE appealed to all Arab and Islamic forces to denounce this ill-omened event in the history of our Arab nation. The statement says: The council strongly denounces the normalization of relations and exchange of diplomatic relations between Arab Egypt, which has a bright history in the world of Arab revolutions and liberation from imperialism and tyranny, and the treacherous Zionist enemy, whose incendiary bombs killed and displaced an Arab people. The statement adds: Inspired by the nature of its free will, the federal National Council considers this a pitch-black day and a brand of shame on the forehead of all Arabs and Muslims. It appeals to all Arab and Islamic forces in their various liberation fronts to denounce this ill-omened day in the history of our Arab nation.

OIL PROSPECTING CONCESSION GRANTED TO U.S. COMPANY

NC261322 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1238 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Dubayy, 26 February--A new agreement was today signed with a subsidiary of the American Atlantic Richfield company. According to the agreement, the company has been granted a concession to prospect for oil in a 760,000-feddan area. The concession is valid for 35 years and the company will begin its prospecting immediately. With the granting of this concession to the American company, there are now three independent companies in the Dubai Emirate which have concessions to prospect for and produce oil.

YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR TUNIS ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

JN242024 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs and foreign minister, left for Tunis this evening at the head of the YAR delegation to the emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, which is to open in the Tunisian capital on Tuesday.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES ISRAELI ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS

NC261335 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Three new ambassador's presented their credentials to President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat at 'Abidin Palace today. They were the ambassadors of Italy, Lesotho and Israel.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, chief of the presidential office Hasan Kamil, Chief Chamberlain Fu'ad Taymur and acting chief aide-de-camp Hasan 'Allam.

President as-Sadat delievered a brief speech after the Israeli ambassador presented his credentials, in which he said: Today we open a new chapter in the history of the two nations and establish an immortal symbol of our determination to coexist in peace and amity.

This is decisive proof of our joint faith in the common destiny of man. This step along the long road of peace is a revival of our glorious heritage and great traditions of tolerance and fraternity.

We fully realize that in order to ignite the torch of hope in our minds and hearts, each of us must lay a brick in the edifice of peace. We are determined to do so. Let us pledge to complete our sacred mission and never retreat from it.

The Israeli ambassador delivered a speech in which he said that peace has become an inevitable reality. The Israeli ambassador praised the courage, wisdom and effectual sight of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, who entered history by his historic visit to Jerusalem.

President as-Sadat held a 30-minute meeting with the Israeli ambassador.

MENA Report

NC261150 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 February--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat delivered the following speech after receiving the credentials of Elyahu Ben-Elisar as the first ambassador of Israel to Egypt:

Today we open a new chapter in the history of the two nations and establish an immortal symbol of our determination to coexist in peace and amity.

This is decisive proof of our joint faith in the common destiny of man. This step along the long road of peace is a revival of our glorious heritage and great traditions of tolerance and fraternity.

We fully realize that in order to ignite the torch of hope in our minds and hearts, each of us must lay a brick in the edifice of peace. We are determined to do so. Let us pledge to put an end to suffering and misery. On this historic occasion, let us pledge to complete our sacred mission and never retreat from it. Let each one of us light a candle of understanding and amity. We shall, God willing, proceed forward triumphantly. God's peace and blessings be with you.

AS-SADAT INTERVIEWED ON EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, U.S. ARMS

TA261745 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1636 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Report on interview with Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat by Israeli Cairo correspondent Ehud Ya'ari on the occasion of the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries in the framework of a special program "The Road to Peace"--recorded in English with superimposed Hebrew translation]

[Text] [As-Sadat] I was telling Eli--do you know who Eli is [Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elisar]. [Laughter] I was telling Eli a story just now, after I received his credentials. First of all, let me say this: Eli is the right man for the right mission at the right moment.

[Studio announcer translates the above and continues] As-Sadat went on to say: I told him that because that is what I believe. As-Sadat said that 11 million Egyptians voted for the peace and only 5,000 people voted against. As-Sadat relates a meeting with a young Egyptian physician, who was a member of his own party, and the lessons he, the Egyptian president, drew from that meeting.

Well, the physician--according to As-Sadat--said that there would be no contacts with Israeli physicians until there is a full Israeli withdrawal. Mr. President, the young physician said, we grew up in a world in which everybody in Egypt was enlisted against Israel. Now give us time to get used to peace. I voted for peace. However, give us some time.

[As-Sadat] This is a revolution that you have done in your visiting Jerusalem and what has happened in the last 2 years is a revolution. Well, let us, give us some time to absorb this.

[Studio announcer translates the above and continues] President as-Sadat's conclusion from these remarks: We should be patient. We will not give those 5,000 people--that minority who voted against--the opportunity to add even one vote to their camp. President as-Sadat is asked about U.S. arms supplies to Egypt. Believe me, As-Sadat says, I was amazed yesterday to read in the newspapers that this issue is being criticized. After we built the peace monument--Carter, Begin and myself--I do not understand why the arms supply to Egypt should be criticized. We inaugurated the peace monument, now we should change the situation [to one of peace]. Since my visit to Israel over 2 years ago, the attitude should have changed. Therefore, I am amazed about this reaction regarding the arms supplies, As-Sadat said.

[As-Sadat] Camp David--there is a treaty between Israel and Egypt--is laying a cornerstone to a comprehensive settlement and not only an agreement between Egypt and Israel.

[Studio announcer translates the above and continues] As-Sadat also refers to the final date of the withdrawal from the Sinai. He claims that no final date has been determined--the reference is to 2 to 3 years. May 1982 is the target date. Indeed, if Israel withdraws prior to this date, before May 1982, that will indicate that the peace process has gained strength and momentum. This will serve as an example to other elements in the area, which will then join the peace process.

As-Sadat Press Conference

NC270850 Cairo MENA in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27--Addressing a press conference after receiving the credentials of the first ambassador of Israel to Egypt, President Anwar as-Sadat declared that the success of the negotiations on autonomous government for the Palestinians would be more resounding than the completion of the first stage of Israeli withdrawal from Sinai behind the Al-'Arish-Ras Muhammad line.

If the withdrawal has shaken all the rejection fronts, the completion of autonomous government would eliminate these fronts altogether, the president added. He further declared that what Egypt is doing for the Palestinians is far more important and significant than what the others are doing.

The accomplishment made at Camp David constitutes the cornerstone of peace in the Middle East and is not a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel. The president declared that we must pursue the march towards peace supported by eleven million Egyptians, whatsoever the obstacles.

President as-Sadat told the press conference that he was surprised to hear and read about Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's criticism of the Egypt-U.S. arms deal.

SPOKESMAN: CEREMONY DOES NOT MEAN RECOGNITION OF JERUSALEM

NC251635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[25 February statement by official Egyptian spokesman on the presentation of credentials of Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Sa'd Murtada to the Israeli president in Jerusalem on 26 February]

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--The Egyptian ambassador's presentation of his credentials in Jerusalem does not at all mean recognition of the city as the capital of Israel or recognition of Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem. It does not imply recognition of any of the measures Israel has taken to change the status, boundaries and features of Jerusalem. Egypt's position in this respect is firm and has not changed. It rejects all these measures, including the consideration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

It is diplomatic practice for ambassadors to present their credentials where the heads of state reside, without this having any legal or political implications regarding the status of these places. In pursuance of this practice, the ambassadors of various states have presented their credentials to the president of the state in Jerusalem, despite the fact that these countries do not recognize the measures Israel has taken with regard to the status of this city.

On this occasion, the Arab Republic of Egypt would like to affirm its firm stance, which it has adopted on all occasions in safeguarding the Arab and Islamic rights in the holy city and which it has officially recorded in the Camp David peace documents, in which President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat affirmed Egypt's stand on the Jerusalem question as follows:

1. Arab Jerusalem is an unalienable part of the West Bank, and the Arab legitimate and historical rights in the city must be respected and restored.

2. Arab Jerusalem must be under Arab sovereignty.

3. The Palestinian inhabitants in Jerusalem will have the right to exercise all their legitimate national rights as they constitute an inalienable segment of the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

4. The UN Security Council resolutions--particularly Resolutions 242 and 267--on Jerusalem must be applied. In addition, all measures that Israel adopted to change the status of the city are null and void and their effect must be eliminated.

5. All people must have free access to Jerusalem for prayer and the right to visit the holy places without discrimination.

6. The holy places of each of the three religions may be put under the administration and supervision of their respective representatives.

7. The essential services in the city should not be divided, and a municipal council, including the Arabs and Israelis, can be set up to supervise the implementation of these services. Thus, the city will not be divided.

The Egyptian ambassador will present his credentials in West Jerusalem on the basis of this firm stance on the Jerusalem question, but his residence and post will be in Tel Aviv.

REACTION TO BEGIN STATEMENT ON U.S. MILITARY AID

NC252246 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 25 Feb 80 NC

[Text of statement "issued tonight" by Egyptian prime minister's office]

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--The Arab Republic of Egypt expresses its surprise at the strange statement Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin has made on his intention to launch a wide-scale campaign in the U.S. Congress and the U.S. public to bring about a reduction in arms shipments to Egypt.

Egypt believes that if the aim of such statements is to raise the question of the balance of power between Egypt and Israel, this regrettably only reflects the same thinking that existed before the signing of the peace treaty between both countries.

Egypt, for its part, believes that the peace treaty with Israel, which was approved by the Egyptian people, shows Egypt's determination to honor its commitments and start a new era in bilateral relations that will be dominated by peace, which in turn will become the cornerstone for the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the area.

Egypt also believes that such statements, in addition to raising unjustified doubts, show Israel's ignorance of and failure to absorb the international changes that affect the security and stability of the area.

Egypt considers its Arab commitments as well as its commitments to resist everything that threatens the security, peace and stability of the states in the area as historic and real. What happened in Afghanistan may be repeated in the area, and it is impossible to ignore one of the big powers' stepped up supply of sophisticated weapons to some states in the area--and in quantities that far exceed their defensive needs--with a view to imposing its hegemony over them and upsetting the security and stability of the neighboring states.

Therefore, Egypt believes that it is necessary and urgent to obtain such weapons in order to be at a level of efficiency that the international situation now demands, because a strong Egypt is the only stabilizing factor and can fulfill its commitments in the face of any foreign threat or intervention that the Middle East and the Arab states may face in the future.

PARIS RADIO INTERVIEWS BUTRUS GHALI ON AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS

LD261520 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Gilberg Denoyan interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali in Paris--live]

[Excerpts] [Question] Tomorrow you are going to meet in The Hague with the Israeli minister of the interior in order to proceed with the case of the Palestinian autonomy. It must be said that this matter has not made much progress in the last 12 or 18 months. Are you a little more optimistic today?

[Answer] Listen, by definition a negotiator must be optimistic. We have established a timetable included in the Washington agreement. In accordance with this timetable these tripartite negotiations between Egypt, the United States and Israel, held in order to try and find a solution to the Palestinian problem, should result in setting up a Palestinian authority, elections for a Palestinian authority, and withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately following elections. And in accordance with this timetable the date is set for 26 May 1980.

[Question] Israel has set up new settlements on the West Bank and strengthened its positions there: Is this not a point on which (?the matter) could fail?

[Answer] Certainly this is contrary to the Camp David agreement. This is contrary to the spirit of the peace treaty which we have signed. But we must continue to negotiate to be able to reach a solution before 26 May. Until we reach the date of 26 May it must be said that we should remain optimistic.

[Question] You say that until you reach 26 May you can be optimistic, but I have the impression that you are slightly cautious since you were about to say: If we do not reach an agreement before the end of May we would have to think about other forms of agreements. [presumably reference to a statement off the air]

[Answer] True, any long-term policy tries to envisage not only solutions but also alternative solutions. But one should not speak of alternative solutions before having tried to explore all possibilities of solution within the framework already set up by us. Therefore one must not speak about alternative solutions before, and only if, we do not find a solution on 26 May.

[Question] Yes, I see. You always say that you have no Palestinian mandate to negotiate [word indistinct] and yet you are negotiating about the future of some of the Palestinian people. Is there anything that has changed in this respect? In any case the PLO remains hostile to your efforts (?as regards) the Israelis?

[Answer] Listen, the PLO, like other Palestinians, those who are on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, are not so much hostile but rather they prefer to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. They want to see results. As long as there are no tangible results they will continue to adopt this waiting attitude. But if -- and here I return to the date of 26 May--if we see a beginning of results, if the situation is easing, then I am sure they will have to take part in the process either directly or indirectly.

[Question] The Islamic world is perhaps beginning to adopt a tougher stance at present. It is trying to recover a certain entity and also [words indistinct] to launch a crusade against the Western world, maybe even more against the Soviet Union. What do you think about this development, about this effervescence of ideals and behavior in the Islamic world?

[Answer] Let me start with Egypt. I think that the fundamentalist movement in Egypt is a very marginal one. And I do not think that the Islamic fundamentalist movement co[illegible] have a role to play in Egypt.

As far as the other parts of Arab world are concerned, it is a fact that there is a very strong movement in Iran but it is not an Arab country, and this is very important. But in the rest of the Arab world I consider that the Arab character is also an extremely important element, and thus there is a need for solidarity to find a solution to the great crisis in the Middle East.

[Question] Yes, but Egypt has at its border Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who becomes increasingly exasperating with some of his slogans. There is even talk of troops being massed. Some Libyan troops are said to have been massed at the Egyptian-Libyan border.

[Answer] Listen, the Libyan Government phenomenon is a very marginal one and will remain very marginal. It does not reflect any reality in the Arab world.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL LEAVES FOR THE HAGUE TALKS

NC261245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1229 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 February--Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil left Cairo for The Hague this afternoon. He is leading Egypt's delegation to the tripartite meeting among Egypt, Israel and the United States which will be held tomorrow and Thursday.

The prime minister was seen off at the airport by Interior Minister Nabawi Isma'il and Tourism Minister Dr Mahmud Amin 'Abd al-Hafiz.

PARTICIPATION IN AWQAF MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MECCA ANNOUNCED

NC270732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 February--AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt will participate in the Awqaf and Islamic affairs ministers conference which will be held in Mecca 8-11 March to discuss the question of Jerusalem and practical ways to apply the Islamic law.

The paper adds that Awqaf Minister Dr 'Abd al-Mun'im an-Nimr will explain to the conference Egypt's firm stand on the question of Jerusalem and President Anwar as-Sadat's efforts to restore the legitimate and historic Arab rights in the city and to consider it an indivisible part of the West Bank.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. NUCLEAR ARMS IN GULF, OMANI POLICY

JN262157 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] (Tom Reston), the U.S. Defense Department's spokesman, has announced that his government may resort to using nuclear weapons in the Arab Gulf area if U.S. interests there are jeopardized. This announcement followed innumerable inquiries into and predictions about the fact that U.S. carriers, submarines and the giant B-52 bombers, which have flown over the Indian Ocean and the Arab Gulf, are loaded with nuclear weapons.

Regardless of how true these predictions are and whether the United States would really adopt this dangerous method, which constitutes a blatant threat to the people of the area and to the Gulf states, (Tom Reston's) announcement is only an escalation of the U.S. campaign against the Gulf area. It further stresses the U.S. administration's aggressive scheme and feverish moves to impose its political, economic and military hegemony on the area in order to maintain its presence and defend its interests in the area. This move is also in accordance with the military plan aimed at securing an intensive military deployment and permanent presence in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean waters as well as in the Arabian Sea and the adjacent area.

The Arab and Gulf stands regarding all these U.S. pressures and maneuvers are clear. The Gulf states and masses have firmly refused to yield to the U.S. desires, threats and blackmail. Our masses in the Gulf have strongly resisted the granting of public or secret military facilities to the United States. Our masses' steadfastness has therefore foiled the imperialist plots to drag the area into joining a political and military pact with the United States and other imperialist countries.

The United States, however, is still sticking to its aggressive scheme and is continuing through its vicious means to threaten the security, sovereignty and national independence of the countries of the area.

The stand of the Gulf peoples and countries toward the current grave situations which threaten their Arabism is best described by their complete support for the national declaration which was announced by President Saddam Husayn. This stand reflects a deep desire on the part of the Arab Gulf to adhere to the principles of neutrality, independence and nonalinement in order to keep the area out of the impact of world conflict and the superpowers' expansionist plans.

The Sultanate of Oman has officially announced that it will grant military facilities to U.S. forces, the vanguards of which are already arriving in the Gulf and taking up positions at its entrance. Moreover, Oman has already agreed to extend and further support the U.S. military base in Masirah. Thus, Oman is violating pan-Arab unanimity and the nonalined movement's principles. Oman is also violating the principles of joint Arab relations, the Arab charter and Arab solidarity. Therefore, it has become necessary to denounce the Omani stand and to adopt appropriate measures capable of isolating Oman on the political and economic levels if it continues to disavow the principles of pan-Arab sovereignty and the Arab nation's national interests and especially if it continues to serve the imperialist designs and to play the role of a policeman guarding the imperialists' interests.

The nationalist and pan-Arab interests of the Arab Gulf states are part of the Arab nation's comprehensive interests. The Gulf states' resistance and struggle against the various plots against and expansionist designs on the Gulf area are also a part of the comprehensive pan-Arab plan to counter imperialist designs and colonialist onslaught on the Arab area.

Hence, the best way to save the area from all plots and intrigues and to enable it to resist threats is through unity and solidarity. This needs an intensive action to further strengthen Arab efforts, to enrich the Arab nation's intrinsic power, to firmly stick to the Arab right and to resist any attempt to interfere in the nation's affairs or to threaten the security and sovereignty and to impose foreign presence or hegemony on this nation.

Circumstances have never been so applicable for drawing up a firm and basic Arab strategy and for implementing all the articles of this strategy in the confrontation with the nation's enemies in order to counter the policy of capitulation, to resist the Zionist aggression and to foil all attempts aimed against the Arabism and security of the Gulf. This could be done only through adopting a united and strong Arab stand and employing all the effective Arab powers.

BAHRAINI DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS 27 FEB

JN271122 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--Bahraini heir apparent and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a 2-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister. Shaykh Hamad will hold talks with Staff Gen 'Adnan Khayrallah on strengthening the bonds of fraternity between the two countries.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOYS LEAVE WITH MESSAGES FOR ARAB LEADERS

JN270802 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--RCC member and Interior Minister Sa'dun Shakir left for Kuwait this morning with a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah. The Iraqi envoy is carrying similar messages from President Saddam Husayn to the amirs of Bahrain and Qatar, the UAE president and the YAR president. The messages deal with the situation in the Arab area, the pan-Arab declaration made by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February and issues of common interest.

RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali left Baghdad for Tripoli this morning with a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Mr 'Ali is scheduled to continue to Algeria with a similar message for President Chadli Bendjedid.

BANGLADESH VICE PRESIDENT SIGNS TWO COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

JN262059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Two agreements were signed today between Iraq and Bangladesh. Under the first agreement, Iraq will give long-term aid to Bangladesh as part of its program aimed at compensating friendly developing countries for the increases in oil prices. The second agreement stiuplates that Iraq will give economic and technical aid to Bangladesh.

The two agreements were signed for Iraq by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and for Bangladesh by Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar.

The Bangladesh vice president arrived in Baghdad last Wednesday on an official visit of several days to Iraq.

Leaves Following Visit

JN271125 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--Bangladesh Vice President Justice Abdus Sattar left Baghdad at noon today following a 4-day visit to Iraq. The Bangladesh official expressed his happiness at visiting Iraq and with the results of the talks he held with Iraqi officials. He said his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was a good opportunity to discuss developing relations between the two friendly countries and exchange views on various issues of common interest.

Justice Abdus Sattar said the talks he held with RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan were successful and fruitful in bolstering and expanding relations between the two countries.

Referring to the pan-Arab declaration made by President Saddam Husayn, the Bangladesh vice president said this declaration will have an impact on the regulation of relations among developing countries to confront the dangers they are facing.

TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW 27 FEB

JN270804 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 27 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 February--Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary for economic relations, left Baghdad for Moscow today heading a delegation to the meetings of the Iraqi-Soviet joint trade committee. The committee will draw up a plan for trade exchange for 1980. It will also discuss economic and trade issues between the two countries.

TRADE MINISTER OPENS SYMPOSIUM ON GULF DEVELOPMENT

JN251651 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, INA--Mr Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of trade, today opened a 3-day Arab scientific seminar on aspects of economic and social developments in the Arab Gulf. The seminar, attended by deputy ministers, advisers and experts from Arab Gulf countries, will also discuss the strategy of agricultural industry in the Gulf and the economic and social impact of foreign immigration to the Gulf region. Participants will also tackle the contribution of Arab manpower and financial resources to Arab joint ventures in addition to the influence of education on the course of economic development in the Gulf region.

UAE OIL MINISTER ADDRESSES SYMPOSIUM ON GULF, DEPARTS

JN261711 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Dr Mani'Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has said that the Arab Gulf countries are seriously thinking of using their oil revenues to raise the living standards of their peoples.

In a lecture delivered here today by Dr al-'Utaybah at the Arab scientific symposium on aspects of economic and social development in the Arab Gulf, he highly praised Iraq's experience in employing its wealth to achieve planned social and economic development.

Minister al-'Utaybah said that the Arab oil consumers should recognize the PLO. He also called for using technology to develop Arab potentials.

Dr al-'Utaybah arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Meets Saddam Husayn

JN261712 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--President Saddam Husayn received in the National Council building today Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister. The UAE minister conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The message deals with the UAE's support for the national charter declared on 8 February and for Iraq's stands on remedying the current Arab situation. The message also deals with the consolidation of the fraternal relations between the UAE and Iraq in the service of the Arab nation's interests.

The meeting was attended by Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, and the UAE ambassador in Baghdad.

Leaves Following Visit

JN261413 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 February--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and national resources minister, left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a 2-day visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement to INA, Dr al-'Utaybah said he had conveyed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the UAE's support for the national charter declared by President Saddam Husayn on 8 February. He said the charter represents the Arab nation's aspirations.

He added that he held talks with Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, RCC member and oil minister, on oil cooperation between the two countries.

BRIEFS

SOVIET OIL EQUIPMENT CONTRACT--Moscow, 26 February--Iraqi National Oil Company [INOC] and Soviet Machinoexport establishment signed a $4.6 million contract to supply INOC with different oil equipment. The signing of the contract came in conclusion of talks between delegations representing INOC and Machinoexport. [Text] [Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN]

TENSE SITUATION REPORTED IN SOUTHERN SHI'ITE AREA

NC261051 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] The situation remains tense and is escalating in the area between the Al-Litani and Az-Zahrani rivers in the wake of the exchange of fire which has taken place between the local Shi'ite inhabitants and saboteurs. The fiercest exchange of fire was around the town of 'Arab Salim, killing two saboteurs.

We have been informed that the town's mukhtar was hit in the clashes and that a number of 'Arab Salim inhabitants were captured by the alien saboteurs.

SABOTEURS BLOW UP HOUSE IN SHI'ITE VILLAGE IN SOUTH

NC270818 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Last night some saboteurs infiltrated the free Lebanese Shi'ite town of Bayt Lif. A house was blown up while its inhabitants were inside: one child was killed, some members of the family were wounded, and some other children were still alive under the debris.

The criminal infiltration took place across the lines of the UNIFIL Netherlands contingent and the house was blown up early this morning.

Major Haddad has told the radio that the criminal act will not go unpunished. It is our right, he said, to defend the safety of our sons. The criminals will reap the fruit of their labor.

INA REPORTS ON ISRAELI SHELLING IN SOUTH

JN261451 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 February--This afternoon, the Zionist enemy and rightist militias shelled the town of 'Arnun and the Ash-Shaqif fort in the central sector of southern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent reports that the 1-hour shelling caused material damage to buildings and farms. No reports are available on the losses in life.

UN SPOKESMAN ON ISRAELI CLAIMS OF TROOP CONCENTRATIONS

JN260754 Damascus ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Feb 80 p 1 JN

[Article: "UN Observers Say Israeli Allegations Regarding Syrian Troop Concentrations on the Front Are Groundless"]

[Text] Beirut, SANA--A UN spokesman yesterday affirmed that the UN observers in the Golan Heights, who number 1,000 soldiers from various countries, do not have any information on concentration of Syrian forces along the border with Israel.

Menahem Begin, prime minister of the Zionist enemy, and his deputy Yiga'el Yadin had claimed that the Israeli forces should take precautionary military measures in view of the mobilization of Syrian forces all along the Israeli-Syrian border.

ATH-THAWRAH VIEWS CARTER REMARKS TO JEWISH GROUP

JN270950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Feb 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Carter's Rejection of the Palestinian State Is a Small Part of the Big Conspiracy," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH comments on President Carter's statements to the U.S. Jewish youth organization that he opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state and refuses to recognize the PLO.

The paper says: This is not everything that U.S. strategy has planned in the Arab area and is not all the results of the Camp David conspiracy. Carter's statements are just a small step to be followed by many others on the road to subjugating the entire area to U.S. blackmail. President Carter's statements are just some of the points dotting the i's concerning the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel, thus giving the true interpretation to the scheme laid down by the conspirators during the famous 13 days they passed in Camp David and stressing that what has been agreed aims at subjugating the entire area to the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.

President Carter's rejection of the PLO and a Palestinian state constitutes a minor and not major part of the present U.S. policy in the area. That's why one should not be surprised that the United States, while blessing the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations, urges Israel to mass its troops on the Syrian front in an open attempt to scare us from proceeding along the line of confrontation, because the United States realizes that Syria's defeat will open the road for it to control and extend its hegemony over the area.

The paper concludes: Carter's statements, which coincide with the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt, will surely end the hopes of those Arabs who have wagered on a U.S. change of stand on the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state. This will make these Arabs work to return to the Arab ranks to confront the new onslaught before it is too late.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LEAVES FOR TUNISIA 26 FEB

JN261302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and director of Khaddam's office Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali left Damascus for Tunis this morning to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the Libyan and Tunisian complaints.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES PFLP-GC OFFICIALS 24 FEB

JN240927 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 24 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 February--At 0930 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], and front command members Fadl Shururu and Kayid Isma'il.

KHADDAM RECEIVES LEBANESE PATRIOTIC FRONT DELEGATION

JN241340 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Feb 80 JN

[Text] In Damascus, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has received a Lebanese Patriotic Front delegation led by front Secretary General Kamal Shatila.

The delegation includes Comrade 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon; and Comrade 'Abdallah al-Amin, Regional Command member of the Ba'th Party organization in Lebanon. The delegation also includes Hasan Matar, Samir Tarabulsi, 'Adnan Badir and Subhi Ghandur--all members of the Lebanese Patriotic Front.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon.

AL-ASAD MEETS WITH ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

JN240704 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 80 JN

[Text] At 1400 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received members of the Arab People's Conference Permanent Secretariat, on the occasion of their meeting in Damascus.

'Umar al-Hamidi, the conference's secretary general, speaking on behalf of the secretariat's members, praised Syria's stands and its prominent pan-Arab steadfastness. He said that the convocation of the Permanent Secretariat's conference in Syria on 22 February, which coincides with the anniversary of the unity between Egypt and Syria, reminds us of that unity and signifies the importance of achieving comprehensive unity. It also reaffirms Syria's role in unity action and its commitment to the struggle to achieve unity.

Furthermore, the convocation of the conference in Syria expresses solidarity with Syria's steadfastness and its resistance to the Camp David accords and As-Sadat's capitulatory policy.

Brother al-Hamidi then dealt with the secretariat's future activities and with its call for a world conference in June, in support of the Arab people in Lebanon, Syria and of the Palestinian resistance.

Touching on the Arab Popular Front's program, Al-Hamidi stressed the importance of supporting the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the broad Arab masses. He expressed his confidence that Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, will remain in the forefront of the Arab nation's struggle.

A number of secretariat members also spoke, expressing their appreciation of Syria's steadfastness. 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khamis, Egyptian nationalist movement representative, praised Syria's support for the Egyptian people's resistance to As-Sadat's defeatist course.

President Hafiz al-Asad welcomed the secretariat's members, stressing the importance of the Arab masses' role and that of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, as a framework representing these masses. He stressed the need to boost the cohesion of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front against the imperialist-Zionist plots and the Camp David schemes.

President al-Asad explained that the Arabs should oppose all steps to drag them into peripheral battles, which would divert their attention from their basic issue, as well as to maintain their clear vision and to distinguish between friends and enemies.

President al-Asad urged the secretariat to double its efforts to enlighten the masses. He also asserted Syria's and the Ba'th Party's desire to continue to support and consolidate the secretariat.

The Permanent Secretariat resumed its meetings this morning under Brother al-Hamidi's chairmanship. Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Ba'th Party National Command member, head of the foreign relations office and head of the Syrian delegation to the secretariat's meetings, attended the meetings, as did all of the delegations.

During today's session, the secretariat reviewed a working paper that outlined the Arab and international political situation, particularly in light of recent and successive events and developments since the signing of the treasonous Camp David accords.

The working paper also pinpointed the escalation of the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat onslaught and heralded the importance of the roles played by the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the Arab people's conference, in their capacity as the bastion of unified Arab steadfastness, which was expressed by the Baghdad and Algerian resolutions.

The conferees reiterated that the primary task of all progressive and patriotic Arab forces is to confront the Camp David accords. This, the conferees explained, dictates the need for these forces' mobilization and unity in the service of the Arab issues, foremost is the Palestinian cause.

The secretariat will resume its meetings this evening to study the reports submitted to it.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES VISITING DPRK DELEGATION

LD261412 Algiers APS in English 1215 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Algiers, 26 February, APS--Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN Party secretary general, received Monday morning at presidency headquarters a delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led by Mr Kim Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary general of Korea Labour Party Central Committee.

Mr Kim Hwan handed over to President Chadli a message from the Korean President Kim Il-song.

Mr Affane Guezzane Djilali, FLN Politburo member, president of the commission of elected and elections, and the Korean ambassador to Algiers attended this audience.

LIBYA

QAFSAH RADIO: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WOUNDS NOUIRA

LD262336 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Qafsah Radio, monitored in southern Italy, interrupted its ordinary programs to broadcast the report that Hedi Nouira, prime minister of the protectorate of Tunisia, was wounded when an attempt was made on his life by revolutionaries operating in the capital. He had to be rushed to Paris for treatment.

The broadcast said that Tunisian revolutionaries in the past few days planned to blow up some installations in the capital, especially the radio station and party headquarters. The Tunisian authorities admitted such an operation when they caught one of the revolutionaries redhanded.

An AFP dispatch to Paris reported the wounding of Nouira, describing his condition as serious.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

LD251206 Tripoli JANA in English 0814 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Politbureau candidate-member and Foreign Minister of the Yemen Democratic Republic Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Present at Mr. Muhammad's reception in Tripoli international airport were the foreign secretary, the Yemen's ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, and the secretariat's Arab department director.

In a statement made to our correspondent the Yemeni foreign minister expressed delight for his visit to the Jamahiriyah. He said the Democratic Yemen Republic and the Jamahiriyah are linked by brotherhood and common struggle against colonialism, Zionism and their agents, he said: "I convey the greetings of our people to the Libyan Arab people, hoping that our relations will witness further progress and development so that we can realize the goals and expectations of the Arab nation".

In sending his statement, he stressed the importance of joint meetings and consultations in a bid to confront the dangers of the colonialist-Zionist reactionary scheme and conspiracies against the Arab nation's just causes, which require the mobilisation of all efforts and the unity of Arabs.

Meets At-Turayki

LD252032 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki this morning received Salim Salih Muhammad, candidate to the Political Bureau and foreign minister of the PDRY, who is visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The meeting was attended by the PDRY ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and the director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Secretariat.

Departs Tripoli

LD262026 Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr. Salim Sal'ih Muhammad, the South Yemeni foreign minister, left Tripoli today after a visit to the Jamahiriyah during which he handed a message from Chairman 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il of the Supreme People's Council of South Yemen to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution.

IRANIAN ENVOY CONCLUDES TALKS ON FURTHERING COOPERATION

LD251650 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, the ambassador of the Iranian Islamic Republic to Kuwait, left Tripoli at noon today after paying a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah during which relations between the two Islamic revolutions in Jamahiriyah and Iran and the means to deepen and develop these relations were discussed.

The Iranian ambassador made a statement to JANA stressing the efforts by the two Islamic revolutions in Jamahiriyah and Iran to strengthen strategic relations between them and to stand united in the face of colonialism and the enemies of Islam.

Brother Ardakani stressed that the understanding and sincerity he noted during his meeting in Jamahiriyah will definitely contribute to the consolidation and progress of these relations.

The Iranian ambassador was seen off at Tripoli international airport by brother head of the department of Turkey and Iran at the Foreign Secretariat.

JANA ON MCHENRY'S REMARKS ON TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

LD251339 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Voice of America has reported that U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry has stated that the United States wants Tunisia to remain independent, and that he warned against any foreign interference in Tunisian affairs. He is also reported to have said that the United States will view any foreign interference in Tunisia's affairs very seriously. The JANA political affairs editor has commented on this, saying that Libya also views any foreign interference in Tunisia very seriously.

SUDAN

SSU STATEMENT ON HOISTING OF ISRAELI FLAG IN CAIRO

JN261023 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 26 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 26 (SUNA)--On this day when the Israeli flag hoists under the sky of Egypt the General Secretariat of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) joins all Arab peoples in a day of deep sadness.

"We firmly believe that the bonds of history and destiny which link the people of Egypt with their mother Arab nation are stronger than what the enemies of the Arab nation conceive. These bonds are capable of surpassing any temporary turn which our enemies consider as ultimate separation boundaries," said a statement issued by the SSU General Secretariat last night.

"The Egyptian flag flying in the air under the Israeli state set on our occupied land is not more than a passing by matter," it added. "The General Secretariat, though filled with the passions of grief and anger to witness what is going on in Cairo and Al-Quds [Jerusalem], still believes in the loyalty of Egypt to her Arab nation and believes that Egypt will not substitute the brother with the enemy and will never abandon its role as brother with the enemy and will never abandon its role as a leader of the Arab struggle to attain its goals," said the statement. It added that the General Secretariat is inspired by the Sudanese people for supporting the Arab right and confirming Arab solidarity and working for the victory of the Palestinian people.

"The Sudan, which had defined its stand in Baghdad and Tunis summits, reaffirm there could be no peace in the absence of justice and there is no justice without the complete liberation of every single foot of occupied Arab land and the restoration of the holy Al-Quds beside the establishment of the Palestinian independent state," said the statement.

The statement confirmed Sudan's belief that individual and partial solutions can never resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict but on the contrary these individual and partial solutions would rather inflame and escalate the conflict to the point of explosion. "Our political organization deeply comprehends the significance of the eternal bonds between our peoples in Sudan and Egypt and will continue keeping and promoting these relations without sacrificing the national commitment of our people and without retreating from Arab solidarity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to restore the rights of the Palestinians," concluded the statement.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA LEAVES FOR ABROAD AFTER 'INDISPOSITION'

LD262020 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Following an indisposition last night, Prime Minister Hedi Nouira has consulted his doctors. It is now known that the indisposition is connected with the circulatory (?system) and that it requires a period of rest and a general examination which will be followed, (if need be), by special treatment.

In view of all this, Prime Minister Nouira this evening left for abroad.

Admitted to Paris Hospital

LD262318 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Hedi Nouira has been admitted to the La Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital in Paris this evening. The Tunisian prime minister arrived on board a hospital plane. He suffers from high blood pressure problems. Mr Nouira is presently undergoing tests at the professor (?Pertuilet) neurosurgical ward. A medical bulletin will be published tomorrow morning.

LIBYAN ABUSE OF TUNISIAN WORKERS SCORED

LD251836 Tunis TAP in English 1406 GMT 25 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis, Feb 25 (TAP)--Al-Qadhdhafi's regime continues to exert the worst extortions against the Tunisian workers in Libya. Last December, the Libyan authorities launched a vast operation aimed at gathering the great possible number of Tunisians. Many among them have been on a first time imprisoned in Zanzur and Ghirane jails, in particular before being transfered on board military lorries to training camps in Al-Assah and Sarrat where they have been put under tents surrounded by barbed wires and tightly guarded by sentries of the Libyan army.

After the lashing failure they met following the aggression against Qafsah, the Libyan authorities launched the same operation once again, willy-nilly trying to win the complicity of any Tunisian who would (?accept) to disown his homeland and to sell his conscience. Since that time, our nationals have began submitting to everlasting vexations. As a start, all those who were working in key sectors such as oil companies have been dismissed from their posts under an official decree signed by Al-Qadhdhafi, in person.

Afterwards, there was the "cleansing" operation of the area of Serrat around the colonel's hometown from all Tunisian and even Libyan elements who were liable not to have the same ideas as Al-Qadhdhafi. [sentence as received] A Tunisian building contractor working in Libya has even (?been) threatened by armed Libyans who tried through intimidation of money-promises, to bring his Tunisian workers in training camps. In front of their flat refusal and their insistence for going back to Tunisia, Al-Qadhdhafi's police made use of execuses and long delays for giving them visas while many among them have been put in jails. Some who had a miraculous escape have been pursued by helicopters, recaptured and taken back to their cells.

This is the way the Libyan authorities treat the Tunisians who refuse to betray their country and serve the dull intrigues of "Tripoli's insane man." In brief this unspeakable behavior can only urge the Tunisians to join together and tighten their ranks around Bourguiba's regime for which the concepts of justice, ponderation and measure are not hollow words.

AMBASSADOR MURTADA ANNOUNCES EGYPTIAN CONSULAR SECTION OPEN

TA261313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Ambassador Murtada announced today that the consular section of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv has been opened and is prepared to serve the public. Because of this, the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry has closed the unit which has been dealing with granting visas to Israelis travelling to Egypt.

'ALI, WEIZMAN SPEAK AT TEL AVIV RECEPTION

TA260939 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Feb 80 pp 1,2 TA

[Excerpt] "The relations between Egypt and Israel are becoming closer month by month not only because of the negotiations we are constantly holding, but primarily thanks to the personal links which have developed between us. As in the past, in the future, too, we will need courage and a lot of patience. I hope others have as much patience as the United States, Israel and Egypt have demonstrated," Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Hasan 'Ali said at the reception Defense Minister Ezer Weizman held in his honor at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel last night.

The reception was attended by Cabinet ministers, Alinement leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, the chief of staff, IDF commanders and senior officers as well as public figures. On the Egyptian side there were the new Egyptian ambassador, the Egyptian air force commander, the commander of the Second Army, the head of intelligence and other senior officers.

The Defense minister greeted General 'Ali and the other guests warmly, noting that when the negotiations began they were held between himself and the Egyptian war minister. Therefore, he marks the significance of the fact that now the relations and the negotiations are between the defense ministries rather than between the war ministries.

The issue of the Sinai supervision was discussed at the working session held yesterday afternoon at the Defense Ministry. As will be recalled, the Egyptians have delayed the signing of the supervision agreement because of differences over the various formulations reached by Israel and the United States. It has been reported that yesterday progress was made on the supervision question, except for one article--Article V--over which there is still no agreement between the parties. It is hoped that the matter would be settled during this week's talks.

CAIRO LAWYERS BURN ISRAELI FLAG TO PROTEST NORMALIZATION

TA261416 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Two hundred lawyers set the Israel flag on fire in Cairo protesting the exchange of ambassadors between Israel and Egypt. They hoisted the Falastin flag and shouted derogatory cries against Israel, the United States and President as-Sadat. The Egyptian security forces arrested about 25 members of the Progressive Party, which is supported by the Soviet Union, who were trying to lay memorial wreaths on the unknown soldier monument and on the tomb of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

YIG'AL ALLON DISCUSSES WEST BANK, GAZA PROBLEM

LD221047 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[Interview given to Makram Muhammad Ahmad by Israeli Labor Party leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Yig'al Allon's office in the Knesset building--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Should the Labor Party return to power, what would your attitude be toward the peace efforts, especially since many problems would still be outstanding, such as the final negotiations on the fate of the West Bank and Gaza sector and the situation in the Golan, assuming that, despite all evidence to the contrary, an agreement on autonomy was reached before May?

[Answer] In the Knesset we voted in favor of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and of the comprehensive solution framework, despite the fact that we had a different view on the subject, because Begin was clear when he emphasized to us that had he not committed himself to the establishment of autonomy, President as-Sadat would not have signed the peace treaty with Israel. We would honor Israel's commitment to these agreements. We have a true desire to promote the efforts toward the establishment of a comprehensive peace because we are fully convinced that unless the Palestinian issue is resolved in both its political and human aspects it would be difficult to establish peace. I am also fully convinced that Israel should be prepared to go beyond the autonomy phase and hold direct negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians for a final settlement.

Those who are attacking As-Sadat and accusing him of things like neglecting Jordanian and Palestinian interests are not fully aware of the facts. In the Camp David agreements As-Sadat was keen to guarantee the interests of Jordan and the Palestinians and charted a broad political and legal course for solving the Palestinian problem.

I must also say that Begin has agreed to certain concepts in the Palestinian issue and the ways to resolve it. That came as a great surprise to me because I never believed that Begin would agree to making the fate of the West Bank and the Gaza sector open to negotiations.

[Question] But Begin is now raising obstacles by succumbing to the pressures made by the Gush Emunim group and its supporters inside the Cabinet, especially on the settlements issue. What Begin is now doing does not create suitable conditions for the establishment of autonomy, besides obstructing any efforts to encourage other parties to advance toward a settlement.

[Answer] I agree with you completely that Begin's government must rise to the level of its historical responsibility and participate with more awareness in creating suitable conditions for the establishment of autonomy. The present Israeli Government's insistence on raising these obstacles could lead, God forbid, to Israel finding itself without Sinai and without normal relations with Egypt, in addition to the continuing tension in Israeli-American relations. I ask myself as I have asked the Begin government in the Knesset: What did you gain from the Elon More settlement. It now constitutes an obstruction in the throat of the state which it can neither swallow nor spit out.

[Question] The pressure Sharon and his group are exerting inside the Cabinet appears to us as undermining the peace process.

[Answer] I do not see any great difference between Sharon's settlements program and Weizman's, because the damage that could be done by implementing either program is the same. Sharon believes that it is necessary to build many settlements all over the West Bank whereas Weizman favors the establishment of a limited number of large settlements in various populated areas. I believe, however, that the implementation of both of these radical programs must be frozen. I would like to say, nevertheless, that we must not succumb to despair because of the obstacles littering the road or because of the slowness of the negotiations. Both sides must exercise patience and good will and each side must take into consideration the basic interests of the other.

[Question] The autonomy talks are now facing difficulties. What solution do you envisage to these intertwined issues that are being raised by the Israeli side, particularly the autonomy issue--that it should apply to the inhabitants and not the territories?

[Answer] First, I believe that it is difficult and indeed unacceptable to separate the demographic and the territorial bases. That is why autonomy should not be based on the demographic factor alone but must include the territorial factor. I also believe that the Israeli military rule must remain in force in the designated areas to which the Israeli forces are to withdraw.

Second, I believe that the elections to the autonomy councils should be free and secret so as to enable the Arab inhabitants to express their true wishes. I am really pleased that the two sides have reached an agreement in principle on this subject.

Third, I believe that the question of sovereignty over subterranean water sources must be frozen pending negotiations for a lasting solution, provided the locations and the number of the wells required by the increasing population are predesignated in cooperation with water experts. I also believe that the question of state land should be shelved pending the negotiations on the final fate of the West Bank.

Fourth, I do not approve of Egypt's view on East Jerusalem. Autonomy must not include Jerusalem. Jerusalem must remain united under Israeli sovereignty. It will be necessary, however, to coordinate the principle of local authority for the city so that it will be compatible with the right of the various communities there to administer their municipal affairs and guarantee the special Islamic status of the holy places there.

Finally, I can tell you that through my numerous meetings with important personalities in the West Bank and Gaza, it has become clear to me that they are interested in keeping the possibility of autonomy open despite their disapproval of some of my interpretations of a number of the Camp David clauses and their insistence of the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem.

[Question] How do you view the possibility of other parties participating in the settlement effort at this time? During a recent interview Weizman called on King Husayn to come to Israel and to announce from the Knesset rostrum his demands for negotiations.

[Answer] The Begin government's adherence to the principle of the land of Israel as including the West Bank and Gaza sector cannot possibly motivate King Husayn to join in the peace process either through separate negotiations or through negotiations in parallel with the Camp David agreements. [paragraph continues]

I am convinced that Jordan will not relinquish its hopes of reunifying the two banks [the west and east banks of the River Jordan] in a federal structure based on two parliaments--one in the east bank and the other in the West Bank--within the framework of one kingdom and one sovereignty. I fully approve of this solution but I believe that it should include secure borders for Israel, defensible borders.

[Question] I went to the Jordan Valley 3 days ago, and there I saw one of the chain of settlements that have been built all along the valley in what is now known as the Alon Line. I will not hide my feelings from you. I felt profoundly sad to see the Arab villages completely deserted, completely empty, with the Israeli settlements nearby supported by the defense force. I felt then that the problem lies in the craving for land and it is not a question of security because there are ways to achieve security without violating the principle of nonacquisition of the land of others by force.

[Answer] We must have an effective military concentration in the valley area in order to confront the possibility of infiltration. We must also have military presence in some of the mountainous areas overlooking the valley and these are normally uninhabited. We have a real security problem. Egypt might have attained peace but we have not attained it yet. Some people are still talking about the possibility of war on the eastern front and all of us are still talking about transitional arrangements during the autonomy period.

[Question] What comes after the autonomy period? Will these bases go?

[Answer] The two sides should now exercise restraint in everything related to the achievement of their long-term aspirations because we are not now talking about the final fate of the West Bank and Gaza sector. Peace has its own special laws. We now only want to open a new page in the relations between Israel and the Palestinian people and Jordan. The solutions I am advocating are reasonable as long as they remain within the transitional framework. I can tell you, however, that Israel must unilaterally decide now to stop any new settlements.

'AL HAMISHMAR DISCUSSES HEBRON ISSUE, GOVERNMENT

TA151951 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 pp 3, 10 TA

[Dalya Shehori commentary: "Hebron and the Government Problem"]

[Text] This week the U.S. administration made quite a show of muscle when it came out in public against the government decision on Sunday concerning Hebron and, in particular--against the possibility that the government would make a decision about settling Hebron at its session this coming Sunday. This was naked intervention, although somebody, who is familiar with the convoluted relations between the United States and Israel and Israel's fears, said this week that the United States could have achieved a far more efficient result had it announced a reexamination of the aid to Israel in view of its policy in the territories. The language of reexamination would have worked wonders, in this person's view, while a public U.S. condemnation of Israel could have been counterproductive. It could have caused Begin to harden his position and decide to go along with Rabbi Levinger.

In the public U.S. announcement made by State Department spokesman Hodding Carter, there were two aspects uncomplimentary to Israel: First of all, the announcement's contents, and, secondly, the manner in which it was given, without any prior diplomatic contact with Israel. [paragraph continues]

We were not accustomed to this during Golda's time, nor in that of Rabin--although there were Israeli officials this week who claimed that there has been a gradual, constant worsening in the relations between the U.S. administration and Israel, which started back in Golda's time, and its basis is the conflict of views between the United States and Israel concerning the Palestinian policy.

It is true that there are differences of approach between the United States and Israel concerning the future of the administered territories--although it is difficult for me to remember when the United States announced that it was in favor of a Palestinian state. However, the differences between the United States and Israel are not new. They have been in existence since June 1967 and an analysis of the relations between the United States and Israel concluding that there has been a constant degeneration beginning in Golda's time is simply not true. What is true is that any differences between the United States and Israel could have remained dormant providing that concrete negotiations were never initiated. It was to be expected that they would surface and become more evident the closer we came to the point of discussing substantive issues regarding the future of the territories. However, this debate has not yet begun and there was no reason to underline the dispute between the U.S. and Israeli views (especially not in the United States--in an election year) were it not for the government's actions which are unnecessarily dissociating the United States and Israel even before the time for the real conflict has arrived.

It would seem that the aspect of preserving Israeli-U.S. relations would be a less urgent need for Israel if government actions enjoyed a consensus or support from the majority of the population. However, most of the population today has the feeling that the Begin government is one which is being dragged along by a group of extremist nationalists, without any ability to set a clear limit and to say openly: Settlement in Hebron--no. The behavior of the extremists from Qiryat Arba', the profound hatred they feel for the Hebron Arabs (or for Arabs in general), their desire for revenge and the poisonous education to which they subject their children--these not only fill Israelis with a mutual feeling of shame, but set a question mark on their silence and restraint in view of these phenomena. Faced with the government's trailing after this dangerous extremist group, the breakdown in the relations with the United States--which should be the top priority of Israeli foreign policy, right after peace with Egypt--appears to be an unforgiveable consequence.

This week the prime minister's office continued to claim that they did not know what the prime minister's position was on the question of the immediate populating of Hebron. He did not express his opinion before the previous cabinet session. He did not express his opinion during the session, nor later on in the week. Menahem Begin is increasingly turning into a competitor of the Delphic oracle. Whatever she said, conclusions were drawn about what she had not said, with doubts always remaining about the truth of the conclusion. At this week's Cabinet session Begin said that it was not possible for there to be any place in Eretz Yisra'el where Jews could not settle. This was also in contradiction of the government's basic premises, he added.

And the conclusion? We can conclude from this that Begin is both in favor of settlement in Hebron and against settlement in Hebron--since, as far as a main decision is concerned, he did not give the practical order to settle Hebron immediately. What is Begin's real position? The assumption is that Begin is, it is true, against the immediate settlement of Hebron. This is because, if he were in favor, he would have included an operative clause in the Cabinet decision. However, nothing clear was said that from the "yes" one learns (we must learn, and maybe this is a mistake) of a "no".

If Begin really thinks that the time is not ripe to settle Hebron--and the Cabinet decision nevertheless demands this interpretation of the prime minister's position--the question arises: What tactics or decisions will Begin use simply because he has an inhibition about discussing his position openly. It appears that, were Begin prepared to phrase his position (against settlement in Hebron now) categorically, it would be approved by the government with a majority of votes and even with a sigh of relief. Begin apparently cannot bear the idea or live with the fact that a government headed by him should give a judgment on nonsettlement of Hebron and this is the source of the government's stuttering position in the Hebron affair, as in the Elon More affair, and as in its relation to all the challenges Gush Emunim throws at it.

The way Begin functions when the government is confronted with decisions--both easy and grave--may cause even an optimist to despair. Begin has no "kitchen", nor has he any small Cabinet, nor has he any people in the know from among his colleagues in the government with whom he consults or tries to cook up the positions to be presented to the Cabinet in advance. He himself is never in the habit of opening a political debate in the Cabinet by expressing his opinion or presenting a draft proposal for the ministers to consider. He lets a debate develop in whatever direction the wind is blowing and only at its conclusion does he--sometimes with, sometimes without, the accompaniment of a concluding speech--make a draft proposal which, in his estimation, will be acceptable.

This method, which appears on the surface to be thoroughly democratic, is unwise, impractical and, in fact, does the country's affairs a disservice. The prime minister, who is supposed to be the guide and leader in government debates, the man who sets its policies in principle, has in fact, by this method, become a raft shaken by the breaking waves. He avoids setting the tone of the debate in spite of the fact that most of the ministers--but we can also put this mildly and say the ministers who are the balance of the scales on controversial issues--are interested in his views or, regrettable, will never go against his views, if they only knew them in advance. By his silence, by not disclosing his opinions, he causes wild--in more ways than one--discussions in the Cabinet. Both from the aspect of the violent verbal displays and from that of the freedom to propose and want to pass giddy, insane things, such as grandiose settlement in the territories, while completely ignoring the political circumstances and the social bitterness boiling over in the country, its heart is beating and looking for a way.

Such ministers as Moshe Nisim and David Levi, who have the most extremist views in the government on issues of greater Eretz Yisra'el, have never yet voted against the prime minister's views. Today, these ministers are in favor of settlement in Hebron, although there is no doubt that were Begin to inform them of his wishes, they would give in to him. We could mention other ministers, such as Dr Yosef Burg or Simha Ehrlich, who would have great hesitations before taking a stand different than Begin--whether for reasons of friendship and loyalty or Begin the man and Begin the prime minister, or, of course, for reasons of internal politics connected with the integrity of the government and the Likud.

At the last cabinet session, where each minister was given permission--perhaps it would be more correct to say where each minister was forced--to give his "real" views and leanings, the following camps were noticeable: in favor of the immediate settlement of Hebron were Ari'el Sharon, David Levi and Eli'ezer Shostak; against the settlement of Hebron now were 'Ezer Weizman, Yiga'el Yadin, Simha Ehrlich, Gid'on Pat, Shmu'el Tamir and Yisra'el Katz; and then the ministers who are not "crazy" about the immediate settlement of Hebron, but 'nobless oblige' committs them, are the NRP ministers, of whom Zvulun Hammer is in favor of expanding the settlement in Qiryat Arba' (and not settlement in Hebron), while Aharon Abu-Hatzera and Dr Burg are in favor of preparing the two vacant buildings in Hebron, which are owned by Jews, for the Hesder Yeshiva, but not for homes. This is also the position taken by Moshe Nisim. This position is not a firm one and it does not appear that the NRP, or Minister Nisim, will come out in a war to the death over it if Begin thinks otherwise. This being so, Begin has a majority for a decision against the immediate population of Hebron and the question is whether this time he will make up his mind to use his authority to get the decision passed, one which could be called courageous by his terms.

It would be desirable, during the debate on the settlement of Hebron--and such a debate will be held next Sunday, if ministers only put forward concrete proposals for settlement--for the government to also give consideration to the impertinent settlement in the Hadassah building and the prayers' siege of Bet Romano. The God-fearing people from Rabbi Levinger's temple would not be such great heroes were it not for the IDF swords guarding them. The time has come for order to be established in Hebron and this applies to the Jewish sector.

HA'ARETZ ON CHANGE IN LEGAL STATUS OF WEST BANK LAND

TA151521 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 p 14 TA

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "On the Agenda: Changing the Status of Land in Judaea and Samaria"]

[Text] This week's government decision about the right, in principle, of Jews to settle in Hebron is only the first sign of things to come. In the government decisionmaking process a document is now being prepared which is likely to lead to a much more far-reaching decision: A legislative process that will declare a change in the status of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

The document is now at the Ministry of Justice, or, to be precise, at the office of the government legal adviser. More than 2 months ago Prof Yitzhaq Zamir was asked by the prime minister to produce a document dealing with the legal status of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The request was made as part of Mr Begin's attempts to appease Gush Emunim and to guarantee the quiet implementation of the High Court of Justice decision about the evacuation of Elon More. Only after that was the appeal to Zamir worded differently. The entire government asked him to work out an opinion about the possibilities for changing the law on the status of the settlements and the land on which they were established or will be established.

Professor Zamir is diligent in preparing opinions, and it will not take long (2 to 3 weeks) before it is presented to the government. Then new headlines will grab the attention of the public of Israel, Egypt and the United States. The government will be occupied with examining possibilities for unprecedented legislation to fortify the legal status of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

The rarity of the legislation to be discussed in about 2 weeks lies in the uniqueness of the situation it is supposed to try to solve. The State of Israel is holding territories that it has not yet decided whether to spew up or swallow. There are no precedents for situations in which parts of a country conquered in war continue to be held by the conquering country for such a long time (13 years) without a decision on their final status. In general, a conquered territory is held until a settlement is arranged with the country from which it was taken. Either it is returned to it, or the conquering country annexes the conquered territory. Israel, however, has for 13 years been wavering over the final status of the territories which fell into its hands in the Six-Day War.

To the uniqueness of the legal situation we can add the State of Israel's emotional link--at least that of all its governments--to the above mentioned territories. Israel does not want to part from them, but it is deterred from annexing them. An expression of Israel's special link to the administered territories can be found in the fact that several thousand Israeli citizens have decided to live there. The result is a special reality of life demanding legislative solutions.

The complicated situation is becoming more complicated because of the autonomy negotiations. Had it not been for the autonomy program and the decision by Israel, Egypt and the United States to hold discussions on this issue, no other alternative might have existed but to give legal answers to the daily problems confronting the Jewish settlers in the West Bank (and the Gaza Strip) who are living under Jordanian laws. However, the possibility that a new arrangement will be made in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is fairly practical and there is no doubt that the legal structure upon which the autonomy regime will be founded--if it really is brought in--will also define the status of the Jewish settlements. It is actually this future development, however, which is causing the settlers to safeguard themselves right now through special legislative moves against an insufficiently firm legal status, which may be given to them in the framework of the autonomy regime.

All the above factors are placing the government under pressure to take an unprecedented step: to initiate legislation which will apply to a territory outside the country. An act of legislation of this sort will get Israel involved in an international conflict, the gravity of which we would do well not to underestimate. Selfish political considerations by various governments will engender genuine concern to statesmen who are experts in legal affairs. Experts in international law certainly will be up in arms in view of the precedent Israel is creating in imposing its law on a territory beyond its borders.

It seems sufficient to examine the above mentioned considerations in order to dissuade the government from adopting any legislative initiative of the kind described and maintaining the status quo of the present legal situation. However, the government is in a strange trap. Its success at quietly evacuating the Elon More nucleus from the lands of the village of Rujayb involved paying the ransom demanded by Gush Emunim--discussing a change in the status of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This created the dynamics which is now leading to the document the legal adviser is preparing. According to Gush Emunim, a solution has arisen in the form of a parliamentary support bloc which compromises at least a quarter of the members of Knesset. It appears that it is no longer possible to stop the momentum of dealing with proposals to change the status of the settlements beyond the Green Line. [paragraph continues]

The prime minister's promise has taken the form of a government decision to ask for an opinion from the legal adviser. The appeal to Zamir will bear fruits in the form of an opinion probably pointing to at least 10 legal possibilities for facing the problem of the status of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. And whoever is not convinced that these developments are sufficent to bring the government to practical deliberations and perhaps even to a decision or legislative initiative in the Knesset had better remember that last week Mr Begin declared at one of his public appearances that the government will in fact propose changing the status of the lands belonging to the settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

One can, therefore, prophesy, that the combined internal pressure applied by Gush Emunim, several ministers (Sharon, Hammer and others) and the parliamentary support bloc will be more influential on Begin than the counterpressure which will probably be manifest by Egyptian dissatisfaction, American ire and strong international criticism.

Is there a legal need to change the status of the settlements? In fact, the existing situation is satisfactory and does not call for change. The government can implement its national policy on the settlement sphere in the occupied territories without any new legislation. The status of the existing settlements, even those established on private land that was seized through injunctions, is secure by virture of the legal rule that the owners were "sleeping" on their rights and did not appeal to the High Court of Justice in time. If they wake up now it is almost certain that their claim will be rejected.

As for the settlements that are to be established in the future, the government's decision to build settlements only on public land is still valid. Therefore, the settlements to be established will not be vulnerable to litigation over their status. Moreover, the state can also expropriate private land in Judaea and Samaria if security considerations require this and if all the proper procedures are adopted so as to show that the purpose of the expropriation is clearly security orientated.

This data is sufficient to lead us to the conclusion that there is no need for special legislation to anchor the legal status of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria, even though the present situation does not allow for every existing settlement to expand at the expense of adjacent private lands whose owner is an Arab. These limited difficulties which are faced by a very small number of settlements on the West Bank (mainly in Gush 'Ezyon) do not justify using so far-reaching a tool as the proposed legislation which would create a new legal situation in the whole region.

However, the above mentioned political and legal considerations will probably not carry any weight with the prime minister and he will probably feel committed toward taking some legislative step in order to satisfy the desires of the Jewish inhabitants of the occupied territories. The legislative possibilities go to two extremes: on the one hand, imposing Israeli law on Judaea and Samaria: and, on the other hand, maintaining the status quo. Since it can be assumed that the government will not chose either of these two extreme possibilities mention should be made of some other alternatives for a solution:

--Abolishing the privilege that has been granted to the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria for the past 13 years to appeal to the High Court of Justice. In accordance with what is custom in the world in relations between conquering power and the residents under its rule the latter have no right to file suit in the high court of the conquering state. Israel has deviated from this custom and allows residents of the territories to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

--Passing a law in the Knesset applying the land law--purchase for public requirements (1943) on Judaea and Samaria. Such a move will enable the state to expropriate private land in the West Bank, not necessarily for defense purposes, but also for general public requirements (such as the establishment of settlements).

--Use of the previous tool, not through legislation, but by means of an administrative order.

--The preparation of a document by the Foreign Ministry to the effect that Judaea and Samaria are not occupied territories. Such a document could prompt the High Court of Justice to consider Judaea and Samaria not as conquered territories and thus not apply the accepted rule in international law to them which provides that one can only expropiate private land for defense purposes.

--Legislation of a declarative nature to insure the status of the existing settlements and their immunity from legal attempts to undermine their existence.

If one views as an example, the Cabinet's decision at the beginning of this week on the right of settlement in Hebron, it is quite possible that the course of legislation that the government will choose in order to change the status of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria will be of a fundamental and declarative nature. The reactions of the United States and Egypt regarding the right of settlement in Hebron indicate that even a declarative legislative act, aimed at declaring the government's intention not to permit the undermining of the status of the settlements beyond the Green Line, might produce a significant international storm.

E. JERUSALEM PAPER COMMENTS ON DIPLOMATIC TIES

TA261206 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Excerpt] Despite the gloomy atmosphere in the territories, the paper ASH-SAH'AB writes with no small degree of optimism this morning: Despite the embraces, the new allies know that the absence of Palestinain recognition of their acts makes their legitimacy null and void. The flag raised in Tel Aviv, ASH-SHA'AB writes, is not the flag we know. The diplomats who have lost all traces of shame are not the representatives of the Egyptian nation we know. When Ambassador Murtada visits the territories, ASH-SHA'AB concludes its editorial, the locked doors and closed markets will tell him the opinion of the Palestinian people regarding him and his mission.

STRIKES IN WEST BANK PROTEST DIPLOMATIC TIES

TA260832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2800 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Text] There is a partial commercial strike in Judaea and Samaria this morning to protest the establishment of full diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the strike is complete in Ramallah and Nabulus and partial Janin and Jericho. Public transportation is functioning normally and most of the workers have gone to work as usual. However, there are no classes today in many towns in Judaea and Samaria.

In the Gaza Strip there is no trace of the commercial strike. The few merchants who closed their businesses this morning have responded to the appeals of military goverment personnel and reopened them.

A senior personality in Gaza told our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar that the attempt by Gaza Municipality to protest the exchange of ambassadors and the normalization has failed. This personality regards the ignoring of the strike call as a personal failure for Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa.

COMMITTEE BANS CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIAN EMBASSY

TA261902 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1630 GMT 26 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Ramallah, 26 Feb--The National Guidance Committee, which is the supreme political organization in the territories, has ordered the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip not to make any contacts with what they defined as "As-Sadat's embassy in Tel Aviv," although many youngsters from the territories study in Egypt.

Reacting to Egyptian Ambassaor Sa'd Murtada's statement that he would be willing to meet personalities from the territories, the committee announced that no public figure from the territories would be ready to meet with him.

On the same issue, an article to be published tomorrow in the East Jerusalem paper ASH-SHA'B states that "the Egyptian diplomats in Tel Aviv have lost every drop of shame, and we do not regard them as representatives of the Egyptian people." The paper adds that the new allies, the rulers of Egypt and Israel, know very well that "our non-recognition of their acts makes the alliance illegal and that the Palestinian people will continue to persecute them until its rights are realized."

Gaza Arabs To Comply

TA271007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Notables from the Gaza Strip say that, if the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv's employment depends on their dealing with him, it is quite likely that he will find himself unemployed. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar reports that even people from Gaza who are known for their Egyptian orientation do not support maintaining any contacts with the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. One of them, Ibrahim (Abu Sita), said that if he wants to visit Egypt he would prefer to get a visa from the Egyptian Embassy in Amman.

The Consular Department of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv issued its first visa this morning. The visa was stamped into the passport of a German businessman. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that this morning, after the Consular Department of the Egyptian Embassy in the Hilton Hotel opened, the number of applicants increased and there are now 70 people at the counter.

AFGHANISTAN

KARMAL SPEAKS AT FIRST AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

GF261648 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 26 Feb 80 GF

[Text] The first agricultural conference of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] was inaugurated today in Delgosha Palace by the revolutionary speech of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA. Members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA were also participating in the opening ceremony of the conference.

In this ceremony Babrak Karmal delivered a comprehensive and revolutionary speech, text of which will be presented later. At the end of the speech by Babrak Karmal, which was warmly received by the audience, Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA and members of the Revolutionary Council, presented the agenda (?to) the members of the executive board for voting which was unanimously approved. Afterwards Fazl Rahim Mohammad, the minister of agriculture and land reform, spoke about the role and importance of convening the agriculture conference in the country.

The agricultural conference, which will last 2 days, is being attended by the representatives of Central Committee of the PDPA, Revolutionary Council, central ministers, secretaries of the parties and provincial committees, governors, provincial agricultural directors, directors of agricultural extentions, cooperative and state farms, heads of the mechanized stations, representatives of the peasants, (?devines) and the ministries concerned.

KABUL RADIO URGES RETURN TO WORK, REOPENING OF STORES

LD261402 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0230 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Noble shop-keepers and artisans, [word indistinct] the government authorities and the security police force with its invincible power will crush all the enemies of the country, and is providing the facilities for your peaceful livelihood. Return to your work and open up your stores. With the closing of your stores only the people of Afghanistan will suffer. Think about those noble countrymen of yours who need medicine. Think about those mothers who want bread for their innocent children. Think about those innocent children who are crying and need milk. Finally think about all your countrymen, who lack the necessities of life.

You are creating problems for yourselves and your people's government. (?Noble and humanitarian people) open up your stores. Do not be intimidated by anyone. The party and government are yours and are defending you against all conspirators, thieves and saboteurs. Noble shopkeepers, open up your stores. (?You are in a most sensitive) [word indistinct] (?of your country and government). The government and the people of the country will not forget this noble and victorious initiative of yours.

KABUL: SITUATION IN CITY 'RETURNED TO NORMAL'

LD262116 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] Lawlessness, plunder and looting in Kabul (?incited) by foreigners, and supporters and servants of the imperialist forces who were instigated by the spying network of U.S. imperialism, Britain and their Chinese and Pakistani lackeys and who engaged in arson and destruction, has ended. Because of the patriotic struggles of the proud members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] social circles and the cooperation of the noble citizens, life has returned to normal.

The citizens of Kabul who have been the object of the unrest created by these foreign servants and the enemies of peace and freedom, are hateful toward those who committed these crimes.

They have expressed their satisfaction at the punishment inflicted on troublemakers in various parts of the city. They have cooperated with the party comrades, members of the social organizations and the police of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA].

A BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reporter, following contact with leading party and government officials, writes that in all government and state institutions, officials and personnel have been present at their work and the normal flow of life has been resumed.

In connection with the normalization of life and the reopening of shops in Kabul, BAKHTAR reporters spoke with city shopkeepers and workers representatives. They report that most shopkeepers closed their shops because of intimidation by the servants and mercenaries of the dark reaction. On 24-25 February and even before they visited the shops and told the shopkeepers they would kill them or burn their shops if they did not close them.

The agents of internal and (?external) reaction, under direct guidance and leadership of American imperialism, Britain and the Chinese and Pakistani spies who are dancing to the U.S. tune, not only closed shops in Kabul, but according to BAKHTAR reports they inflicted a weak economic position on shopkeepers' families and most shopkeepers businesses have been seriously harmed.

The inhabitants of Kabul and representatives of the various (?wards explained) the psychological effects of these plunders and the unrest to reporters.

COMMENTARY ON ACTIVITIES, AIMS OF 'PAKISTANI ENEMIES'

LD261926 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1230 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] With the help of American imperialism and other reactionary circles our enemies have entered our country. They want to burn our homes and places of work. They are destroying our roads, which are our lifeblood, and burning vehicles crucial to our livelihood. They are looting the shops which provide our daily needs and inflict injuries on the shopkeepers. They are destroying public property. They are burning food depots [words indistinct]. By opening these shops the government wants to make available further food supplies and bring down prices for consumers.

But these enemies are destroying the stores of wheat and other provisions. They are preventing their transportation. They want to create shortages and thus weaken our economy and keep our country backward so we will be dependent on them.

Now that Afghanistan, in the second phase of the successful Sawr Revolution has commenced socioeconomic (?reform), our old enemies, in the shape of Pakistanis, have entered our sacred land with American and Chinese weapons, Pakistani rupees, English pounds and West German marks and have engaged in looting and armed attacks. It would be better if you hear the views of a few of our countrymen. They were interviewed by a Radio Afghanistan reporter: [begin recording]

[Question] Comrade, a number of shops were closed. Now we can see the number of those that have opened has increased. What is your opinion about the closing and opening of these shops? Could you explain to our citizens?

[Answer] It is totally wrong and is a conspiracy that people have hatched and are hatching. My shop is open. I have been asked to close, but as you can see it is a food store and has to be open to the public so that they can use it. [end recording]

PASHTO COMMENTARY EXHORTS PEOPLE TO VIGILANCE

LD270024 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary in Pashto]

[Text] Dear countrymen, be vigilant. The fascist band of the bloodthirsty Amin chained thousands of our countrymen and put them in prisons. He turned our country into a prison. Think of who dismantled this oppressive band. It was the victorious People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], under the guidance of Babrak Karmal, which eliminated this savage band. The party and our government broke the chains from our people. Thousands of prisoners were set free. It stopped savage killings. It is trying with all its might to put at your disposal all its abilities. We ask why thieves and destroyers, with instructions from America, China and other imperialists, are fighting against our party and government? Because these savages don't want our country to progress and develop or that our people should continue their social life peacefully. They are attempting to disrupt your normal flow of life and create worries for you. These enemies of our people and our country claim that the USSR wants to destroy the religion of Islam. But this is totally wrong. For it is clear to our people that the USSR, with the invitation of our party and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government, is helping us against the encroachment of U.S. imperialism and its servants.

If the USSR is the enemy of Islam and Islamism [as heard], why then are Muslims in the USSR free to conduct their own religious ceremonies? Muslims of the USSR observe their religious rites with assurance and enthusiasm. The USSR has always helped those people who are fighting for their freedom in accordance with their own wishes and will continue to do so.

The USSR helped the people of Afghanistan even in the time of Amanullah Kahan [Afghan kind of the 1920's]. Our forefathers remember that the USSR gave us arms at the crucial moments of our independence struggles. The USSR has helped us to gain independence and has recognized our independence. Now, too, the USSR is helping us to build our country. But U.S. imperialism is helping the thieves and destroyers in our country. They are being sent to our country from abroad so that they can destroy our buildings.

AFP: SHI'ITES ARRESTED AS SCAPEGOATS FOR ANTI-USSR ACTS

BK261255 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Feb (AFP)--The Afghan authorities have begun arresting members of the country's Shi'ite Moslem minority in a possible effort to make them scapegoats for the anti-Soviet disturbances that erupted in Kabul last week, the latest reports from the Afghan capital said today.

The reports, from reliable sources, said the authorities were blocking access to two poor Kabul neighbourhoods dominated by the Shi'ites, believed to have played a key role in organizing the demonstrations that may have killed more than 100 people last Friday.

One report spoke of large numbers of arrests but there was no independent confirmation.

The Shi'ites, known locally as Gazaras, account for about 10 per cent of the population of Sunni-dominated Afghanistan, where they have led opposition to Marxist rule, possibly inspired by Iranian Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeyni.

The reports identified the two blocked off Kabul neighbourhoods as Jadi Maiwand, in the south, and Dasht-e Barchi, in the southwest.

Meanwhile, the government-run Kabul NEW TIMES newspaper yesterday added a domestic group identified as Pahat-e Eslami to the list of those it accused of fomenting last week's outburst, including the U.S., Pakistan and China.

REBELS CLAIM FIGHTING NEAR PAKISTANI BORDER

BK261631 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] Undated, 26 Feb (AFP)--Moslem Afghan rebels and Soviet-bolstered Afghan troops battled today in mountainous provinces near the Pakistani border, with rebels claiming to have successfully repelled an army attack in the Konarha Province.

Rebels today claimed to have killed two communists and destroyed two Soviet armoured cars in fighting last night at the town of Alishang in Laghman Province near the Pakistan border. Two Afghan women and three children were also reported killed in Laghman, a major pocket of rebel resistance.

According to insurgents, an armed group of mojahedin Moslem guerrillas successfully repelled an attack today by heavily-armed Afghan troops in Konarha Province's Dare Naar [as received] county.

The rebels also reported capturing some Soviet-made guns from Afghan troops.

BANGLADESH

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR RIVERS COMMISSION TALKS IN INDIA

BK261509 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A nine-member Bangladesh delegation led by Minister for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control Kazi Anwarul Haq left Dacca this morning for New Delhi to attend the 18th meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission. The meeting begins in the India capital tomorrow.

Talking to newsmen at the airport before his departure, the Bangladesh minister expressed the hope that the long-standing water sharing problems could be resolved at the meeting. The minister said already some discussions had taken place and consensus on some matters reached. Efforts will be made for reaching agreement on the remaining aspects, he said.

Kazi Anwarul Haq said the meeting will discuss augmentation of the dry season flow of the Ganges, fixing details of the sharing of the Tista waters and the problems of the border rivers.

INDIA

YUGOSLAVIA'S VRHOVEC HOLD TALKS WITH MRS GANDHI

BK261402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The visiting foreign minister of Yugoslavia, Mr Josip Vrhovec, had a 40-minute meeting with the prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in New Delhi today. He handed over a message to her from Marshal Tito. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the message referred to the international situation and stressed relevance and importance of the nonalined movement. It also underlined the importance of Indo-Yugoslav friendship. Mrs Gandhi and the Yugoslav foreign minister broadly reviewed the international developments, regional questions and bilateral matters.

Mr Vrhovec stressed the need for initiatives of the nonalined countries to solve the present crisis. Mrs Gandhi agreed that the nonalined countries should remain in touch with each other and consider solutions that would help restore normalcy, peace and stability.

Joint Statement Issued

BK261733 Hong Kong AFP in English 1729 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Feb (AFP)--Both India and Yugoslavia have emphasized the need to strengthen the solidarity of the non-aligned movement and to reaffirm its principles. This was stated in a joint statement issued today at the end of Yugoslav Foreign Minister Josip Vrhovec's three-day visit to India.

The statement said the Yugoslav foreign minister's talks with his Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao, revealed a close similarity of views. Expressing satisfaction at the "continued progress" in bilateral relations, the two ministers reaffirmed their determination to strengthen cooperation between the two country in all fields.

According to the statement, the two ministers had a comprehensive exchange of views on current international situation including developments in South and South-west Asia and other key international issues.

They expressed their satisfaction at the continued progress in Indo-Yugoslav relations and agreed to continue exchange of views on matters of mutual interest, it said. Mr. Rao accepted an invitation extended by Mr. Vrhovec to pay an official visit to Yugoslavia, the statement added.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES NEW DELHI ARRIVAL STATEMENT

LD261856 Algiers APS in English 1645 GMT 26 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New Delhi 26/02/80 (APS)--"Contemporary history has created between India and Algeria solid relations of friendship" said Mr Mohamed Benyahia, Politburo member and foreign minister, in a statement upon arrival to new Delhi on an official visit to India.

"I come (to India) with the resolve to further develop and strengthen friendly and solidarity links, he said, adding, this is necessary since the non-aligned movement's role will be more and more important in international relations".

"I come also with the resolve to develop a diversified cooperation with India." Mr Ben Yahia is expected to sign a cooperation agreement at the end of his five-day official visit.

The Algerian foreign minister also hailed the Indian "gigantic" effort for development.

The Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, who welcomed Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia said his [as received] satisfaction with the latter's visit to India. He disclosed that talks will centre on bilateral relations, problems of common interest and international issues.

Joint Call for Nonalinement

BK270327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] India and Algeria have called for strict adherence to the principles of non-alinement by member countries as the rest guarantee against outside interference in their internal affairs. Speaking at a banquet given in honor of the Algerian foreign minister, Mr Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, reiterated India's stand that intervention by one country in the internal affairs of another is impermissable.

In his reply, the Algerian foreign minister said India and Algeria should assume even greater responsibility in the present circumstances and reaffirm their firm faith in nonalinement and consolidate the movement.

IRAN TO SUPPLY 5 MILLION TONS OF CRUDE TO COUNTRY

BK270331 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Iran haq agreed to supply 5 million tons of crude to India this year. The Iranian oil minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar, gave this assurance to the secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, during their talks in Tehran. The minister told Mr Bhandari India will remain on the priority list for oil supplies by Iran though it had cut down its production.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ON OMANI ENVOY'S VISIT

BK261532 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1442 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

["Official spokesman statement on February 26th"--ISI headline]

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister of Oman Sa'id Fahar ibn Taymur called on the prime minister February 26th. He handed over a message of greetings of goodwill from Sultan of Oman Qabus. Taymur stressed that Oman wishes to strengthen and expand Indo-Oman relations. He also conveyed his government's assessment of the situation in Afghanistan to the prime minister. He mentioned that apprehension existed in many countries in his region about the prevalence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. The prime minister conveyed the Government of India's views in the matter and stressed the importance of defusing the situation by avoiding an arms race and cold war confrontation in the region. In response to queries the official spokesman said that the deputy prime minister of Oman acknowledged that part of the apprehension of Soviet military presence in his government was also due to Oman's perspective of development and attitudes in Southern Yemen.

JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION MEETS IN NEW DELHI

BK270959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The 18th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission began in New Delhi this morning on a cordial note. The Indian delegation is led by the union energy minister, Mr Ghani Khan Chawdhury and the Bangladesh delegation by the minister for power, water resources and flood control, Kazi Anwarul Haq. At the opening session, both sides expressed the hope that a long-term solution will be found soon to the problem of augmenting the Ganges waters during the dry seasons for the benefit of both the countries.

STUDENTS PROTEST MIDEAST TREATY OUTSIDE U.S. DELHI EMBASSY

BK261417 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 26 Feb (AFP)--About 100 Arab and Indian students demonstrated peacefully outside the U.S. Embassy here today in protest at the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

The demonstrators, chanting "God is Great" and hoisting the red banner of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, denounced the Middle East peace treaty as part of an "American conspiracy" and said peace would come only after Palestinian rights were guaranteed.

GOVERNMENT CONTRADICTS REPORT ON CURTAILMENT OF IMPORTS

BK270953 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Government today contradicted reports appearing in a section of the press that the union Finance Ministry had asked the state trading corporation to curtail import of certain essential items like cement and newsprint on account of the foreign exchange reserve position.

An official press release issued in New Delhi today says that no such directive has been issued. It says that adequate foreign exchange has been provided for all such requirements.

JANATA PARTY'S JAGJIVAN RAM SAYS CRISIS OVER

BK251644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] The differences in the Janata Party, which had developed recently, were resolved at its parliamentary board meeting in New Delhi today. All members of the board including Jagjivan Ram attended the meeting which continued for 4 hours. At the end of the meeting party General Secretary Surender Mohan read out a statement from Jagjivan Ram regretting his remarks against the party leaders. He said he had made these remarks on the basis of newspaper reports running him down. He pledged himself and his colleagues to strengthening the party which he said is the supreme need of the time.

Jagjivan Ram told waiting newsmen that the crisis in the party is over. In fact, there was no crisis, he added.

Denies Apology

BK261718 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] With Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr L.K. Advani assuming tough postures on the Rashtriya Sayamsevak Samaj [RSS] issue, the crisis in the Janata Party seems to be far from over.

After today's meeting of the national executive, Mr Jagjivan Ram denied having apologized for his remarks against some party leaders and said everything is not alright with the Janata Party. On the other hand, members of the erstwhile Jan Sangh stayed away from the meeting with Mr Advani asking Mr Chandra Shekhar to settle the dual membership issue once and for all.

Mr Chandra Shekhar told newsmen after the meeting that certain formulations on the issue are being finalized. This was also confirmed by Mr Jagjivan Ram at a separate press briefing, but he added: That the party have still to be developed into an integrated political party.

All India Radio's correspondent says that today's developments began with the release of Mr Advani's letter to the press. Mr Advani said some people in the party are not willing to reconcile our presence in the party except as second class citizens. This is unacceptable. He contended that the crisis arising out of the recent meeting of his followers by Mr Jagjivan Ram has not blown over. It has only been temporarily swept under the carpet.

Mr Advani said: I am proud of my association with the RSS and I shall not under any circumstances disown my link with it.

Mr Advani pointed out that at one stage of the discussion in the parliamentary board yesterday, Mr Jagjivan Ram had said his continuation in the party is subject to the solution of the dual membership issue. This means that there is going to be a perpetual question mark on whether our leader in the parliament will continue to remain in the party or not. Mr Advani said until this is decided he and his colleagues would like to stay away from the executive meeting.

Mr Jagjivan Ram at his press briefing said a large number of party members today expressed their desire that the party should be delinked from the membership of the RSS. He said in a country like India, which has multireligious nationalism, there can hardly be any scope for nationalism based on one religion. He hoped the national executive of the party, which is again meeting tomorrow, would devise some methods to satisfy the members of the party.

Mr Chandra Shekhar, on the other hand, today said there is no issue on which Mr Jagjivan Ram cannot be satisfied. He hoped the party would be able to find a solution to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr Chandra Shekhar asserted that both Mr Jagjivan Ram and the erstwhile Jan Sangh members will continue to stay in the party.

Crisis Continues

BK270947 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] In New Delhi today, the National Executive of the Janata Party inconclusively discussed the issue of delinking the Janata Party from the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh raised in the letters of Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr L.K. Advani. Mr Jagjivan Ram sent another letter today to the party president demanding an immediate solution of the issue. He did not attend the National Executive meeting today. Mr L.K. Advani and his colleagues also abstained from the meeting.

Earlier, the Janata parliamentary party which met this morning for an hour failed to take a decision and referred the matter to the National Executive. Mr Jagjivan Ram was not present at the parliamentary board meeting today. He told the party president in his letter that he has made his views clear on the issue. Therefore, he said there is no need for him to attend the meeting.

PAKISTAN

FRANCE'S STIRN HOLDS TALKS WITH SHAHI, MEETS WITH HAQ

LD261645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Olivier Stirn held talks with Foreign Affairs Adviser Agha Shahi in Islamabad today. The regional situation, especially the situation arising out of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, was reviewed during the talks. In addition, views were exchanged on bilateral relations. Afterward, a spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office said that the two sides hold similar views on possible steps for solving the problems arising out of the situation in Afghanistan. It was also agreed that both Pakistan and France have important roles to play in solving these problems and in maintaining peace in this region of the world.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with bilateral relations and examined proposals on developing their economic cooperation.

Later, Mr Olivier called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The foreign affairs adviser and the foreign secretary were also present.

Shahi, Stirn Luncheon Remarks

BK270218 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] Regional developments arising out of the Soviet intervention as well as bilateral relations between Pakistan and France were discussed at a meeting in Islamabad today between the visiting French minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Olivier Stirn, and the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi.

Speaking at a lunch given in his honor by the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Olivier Stirn said the present consultations between Pakistan and France manifested the common will of both the countries to consolidate and strengthen the existing cordial relations. Pakistan, he added, had a very important role to play in this region as well as in the Muslim world.

The adviser on foreign affairs said Mr Stirn's visit was of great significance and will contribute to further strengthening close and friendly relations between the two countries.

SPOKESMAN DENIES CHARGES OF ANTI-AFGHAN ACTIVITIES

BK261559 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today described as baseless and incorrect allegations by Kabul Radio that Saudi Arabia has been providing funds to Pakistan for sabotage activities in Afghanistan and that thousands of troops are being trained on Pakistani territory under the supervision of foreigners.

The spokesman recalled that similar allegations had been made recently and had also been denied. He said that such allegations were aimed at diverting attention from the activities of the Afghan people against the Kabul Government and concealing the oppressive measures carried out against the local inhabitants.

AFGHANISTAN REFUSES TO RELEASE PAKISTANI JOURNALIST

BK270340 Karachi Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 27 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Informed circles in Islamabad have described as totally inaccurate the statement of the Afghan charge d'affaires appearing in a section of the press that the Pakistan Government is not in touch with the Afghan Government at the official level over the illegal detention of a Pakistani journalist Mr Mukhtar Hassan.

They said the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul is constantly in touch with the Afghan Foreign Office demanding his immediate release, but the Afghan Foreign Office has throughout denied these requests and even declined to give reasons for Mr Mukhtar Hassan's detention.

AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS BY AFGHAN PLANES LISTED

BK261621 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] It was officially stated in Islamabad that Afghan military aircraft have violated Pakistan's airspace more than 32 times since 8 December. Twenty-seven violations took place during the current year, several of them of a serious nature as the Afghan aircraft flew more than 10 miles into Pakistan's territory.

It was also stated that Pakistan, despite the repeated violations of its airspace by the Afghan aircraft, has so far exercised considerable restraint.

SPOKESMAN REFUTES TASS ACCUSATIONS OF AIR VIOLATION

BK251725 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Feb 80 BK

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Office today categorically refuted in Islamabad a TASS news item of Saturday last [23 February] based on a PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI] story alleging that two Pakistan air force fighter aircraft violated the line of control in the Poonch area on the 22d of this month. He described the report as completely false and unfounded. The TASS story mentioned an earlier PTI report that a sabotage center was being set up in the eastern area of Azad Kashmir preparatory to strikes into the Indian-held Kashmir. This report, the spokesman added, is also preposterous and is obviously designed to create mischief and misunderstanding between Pakistan and India.

HAQ ANNOUNCES NATIONAL CONVENTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS

BK231559 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The president has said a 2-day national convention will begin in Islamabad on the 5th of next month. Talking to newsmen at Kamra, the president said the main topic to be discussed at the convention included the situation facing the country externally and internally, the economic situation as well as other matters concerning the people.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the main purpose of the convention is to establish a link between the government and the people. It would help the government to understand the main problems of the people and also enable the government to present its view points to the people through their elected representatives.

The convention will be attended by chairmen and vice chairmen of district councils, municipal corporations and municipal committees as well as vice chairmen of cantonment boards.

The president said this convention would be followed by another convention to be attended by different segments of the society, including doctors, engineers, scientists, businessmen, economists and journalists.

Replying to a question, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the advisory councils, both at the federal and provincial levels, would start working soon. These councils would advise the government in the formulation of the new budget.

Replying to another question, the president said he had no intention to invite politicians to the convention as they had their own compulsion. However, he would be meeting them separately to know their views and if they wished to attend the convention, they would be most welcomed.

In reply to another question, the president said he was going to have contacts with the politicians about the situation arising out of the developments in Afghanistan. He added there was complete national unity and the people wanted to strengthen the hands of the government.

The president said the Foreign Office was in touch with the Kabul regime to secure the release of journalist Mukhtar Hassan.

AFP: BANNED POLITICAL PARTIES CALL FOR ISLAMIC SUMMIT

OW241720 Hong Kong AFP in English 1640 GMT 24 Feb 80 OW

[Text] Karachi, 24 Feb.--A convention of various banned Pakistan rightist political parties has denounced Soviet naked aggression in Afghanistan and asked the Pakistani Government to call a summit of Islamic nations on the issue.

A resolution passed by the convention, released to the press here today, said the summit--in Pakistan--should formulate a united stand of the Moslem world on the Soviet intervention. The resolution added that every Pakistani was deeply concerned over the happenings in the neighbouring Moslem state, and it was the duty of the entire Moslem world to support the struggle of the Afghan people against foreign aggression.

The convention urged the Pakistani Government to recall its ambassadors from Kabul and Moscow in protest against the Soviet action. It also suggested that Pakistan should withdraw its overland transit facilities for Afghan goods during the presence of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

In addition the convention demanded the restoration of the democratic process in Pakistan so as to create internal stability and strengthen national solidarity in the face of the danger on the country's border.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY WORKING ON 'GRACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER'

BK261039 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Minister for Petorleum, Labor and Manpower Lt Gen F.A. Chishti has said the government is creating favorable conditions leading to a graceful transfer of power. Talking to a Pakistani journalist in London, he said that the process of Islamization in Pakistan had not been slowed down. The government, he added, was going through the process systematically.

In reply to a question, he said that the government had not stopped Afghanistan's transit trade through Pakistan.